

NS STATES-ITEM

Judge Takes Vacation After Charges Filed

Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. was on vacation today following an announcement that the district attorney's office filed three charges against him.

Judge Haggerty, who presided over the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw, was charged with soliciting for prostitution, exhibiting "sexually indecent" motion pictures and resisting arrest. The bills of information were filed by first assistant district attorney James L. Alcock and assistant DA John P. Volz in Criminal District Court.

They said DA Jim Garrison, who is recovering from back surgery, was consulted before a decision was made.

THE CHARGES grew out of a Dec. 17 police vice squad raid on an alleged "stag show" at the DeVille Motel, 3800 Tulane Ave.

Sixteen other persons were arrested either during the raid or following it, and Alcock said that other charges will be filed at a later date.

In filing the charges against Judge Haggerty, the DA's office bypassed several other courses of action. The charges could have been referred to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury or to Municipal Court or the DA's office could have rejected them.

Charges of simple battery against police officers and conspiring to commit obscenity were refused by the DA's office on grounds that they were covered in the accepted charges.

ANNOUNCEMENT that Judge Haggerty would begin his annual vacation immediately was made by the judge's attorney, Robert Zibilich.

Zibilich reiterated his contention that Judge Haggerty is innocent and said he will move for a speedy trial.

Zibilich's statement on behalf of Judge Haggerty follows:

"I have today conferred with Judge Haggerty as well as with Judge (Bernard J.) Bagert, the senior judge of the Criminal District Court, and some of Judge Haggerty's brother judges of the criminal bench, and have been authorized to issue the following statement:

"AFTER CONFERENCES with Judge Bagert and other Criminal District Court judges, Judge Haggerty has decided that under the circumstances it would be proper for him to take his annual vacation, effective immediately.

"He believes that the administration of justice can be better handled during the pendency of the charges against him if he is not sitting as a judge at the same time. We reiterate here and now the fact that Judge Haggerty is innocent of any charges pending against him, and we are fully confident that after a full hearing on this matter he will be completely vindicated. We are naturally not at liberty to discuss any of the facts of this case anywhere other than in a court of law.

"We intend to move immediately for a speedy trial so that Judge Haggerty may resume the bench at the earliest possible date."

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Letters to the Editor

Cultural Center

Editor, States-Item:

This is to thank you for your recent editorial comment concerning the "Cultural Center Start" which referred to the \$2 million-plus federal grant to acquire the balance of real estate needed for this complex.

The dire need for completing the entire cultural center is more apparent every day. It is not necessarily motivated by pride or of the nature of such a community. It will contribute to the development of the community.

of revenue, when I became managing director of the Municipal Auditorium five years ago, I adopted a policy of not scheduling competing events by using the two sides of the Municipal Auditorium on the same day and at the same time. Many persons have suggested that I use the policy that had been practiced years ago, such as the incident reported in your editorial. But, I have consistently refused, and although we miss the revenues, we feel that it is better to avoid the bad publicity.

Competing events cause annoyance on both sides of the auditorium and those that took place years ago are frequently mentioned in national publications. There is one exception. Because of the limited time for carnival balls, we must schedule in some instances (such as the Comus, etc.) on one

ground is to be broken for our new cultural building in early 1970, I am not in favor of spending such a large amount when its results are doubtful.

Richard Dixon,
Managing Director.

Judge Haggerty

Editor, States-Item.

The escapade of Judge Haggerty should not be permitted to be "swept under the rug". If any other citizen, other than the judge, had been guilty of reviling and insulting the police, resisting arrest, etc., or even lesser offenses, he would have been booked, fingerprinted and his case set for trial before this.

The tale of woe expressed by the attorney for the judge would have had a plausible ring if the facts did not show (1) that an admission price of \$5.00 was collected; that (2) an additional \$10.00 was charged for additional entertainment and (3) that after the entertainment prostitution was practiced. This does not sound like the usual "pre-nuptial" stag. . . .

Justice For All

ted cost (without approximately resolution at Since