



"A GREAT BIG HAND FOR ME..."

Judge Edward Haggerty leaves court after his acquittal in New Orleans

—AP Photo

Colleague Rules

Haggerty Innocent of Vice

NEW ORLEANS — (AP) — The judge who presided at the Clay Shaw trial has been declared innocent of charges that he supplied sex movies and women for a stag party.

Judge Edward Haggerty Jr., 56, was acquitted last night on charges of soliciting for prostitution, obscenity and resisting arrest.

Spectators in the courtroom cheered the verdict by one of Haggerty's colleagues on the Criminal District Court, Judge Matthew Braniff. He heard the case without a jury.

No Cause

It was in Criminal District Court before Judge Haggerty that Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman, was found innocent last March of a charge by District Attorney Jim Garrison that he con-

spired to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

In Haggerty's own trial, Braniff ruled that the Dec. 17 stag party, at a midtown motel, actually was a private gathering and police had no "probable cause" to raid it.

Brewer Pence, a police undercover agent who has a son on the vice squad, attended the party wearing a tiny radio transmitter with a microphone hidden under his tie. It broadcast conversations to police outside.

But Judge Braniff ruled that the police had not obtained court authorization for electronic eavesdropping and therefore it was illegal.

'Girlie Committee'

Pence testified that Judge Haggerty brought in a sack of sex films and when he dis-

covered that the "chairman of the girlie committee" had fallen down on the job, he went out and brought back three women.

Pence said the judge, after watching several movies of various sexual antics, stood up and cried: "Why go on watching film when we have the real thing?"

Judge Haggerty then asked: "Who's going to go with the girls first?" Pence testified, and when somebody inquired as to the price he replied, "about \$100." The raid came shortly afterward.

Defense witnesses testified they heard no such conversation.

Kenneth Reeves, an accountant, said it was a private bachelor party organized for him by friends prior to his wedding.