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The New Orleans States-Item is an afternoon newspaper. It prints the news impartially. It supports what it believes to be right. It opposes what it believes to be wrong, without regard to party politics.

The Haggerty Case

"A judge's official conduct should be free from impropriety and the appearance of impropriety and his personal behavior, not only upon the bench and in the performance of judicial duties, but also in his everyday life, should be beyond reproach." Canon IV, Canons of Judicial Ethics, adopted by the Louisiana Supreme Court, Oct. 13, 1960.

Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. has been acquitted of misdemeanor charges of obscenity, soliciting for prostitution and resisting arrest stemming from his arrest at a motel "stag party" on Dec. 17, 1969.

Unresolved, however, is the question of Judge Haggerty's fitness to occupy the bench and sit in judgment of the lives of others.

The people are entitled to expect their judges to be of exemplary character. Public respect for the law it-

self is diminished when members of the judiciary, or other officials whose sworn duty it is to uphold the law, conduct themselves in public or in private life in such a way as to damage the dignity and integrity of their offices.

Indeed, much of the contempt shown by the youth of today toward their elders and much of the cynicism which is directed at public officials can be attributed to indiscretion, irresponsibility and corruption on the part of those they are taught to respect.

This newspaper believes Judge Haggerty's conduct raises serious questions about his fitness to continue on the bench.

We believe an investigation into the matter of whether Judge Haggerty's off-the-bench conduct constitutes a violation of the Canons of Judicial Ethics is in order.