

MARCH 18, 1970

State Funds OK'd for Probe Of Haggerty

The State Board of Liquidation in Baton Rouge today overrode the objections of Sen. B. B. Rayburn of Bogalusa and gave \$3,000 to the Louisiana Judiciary Commission for an investigation of Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr.

Rayburn voted against the emergency appropriation, saying the commission should live within its current budget.

"I have nothing against an investigation," Rayburn said. "But these people have got to start living within their budgets."

LOUIS QUINN, executive secretary to Gov. John J. McKeithen, said the state had "to maintain the integrity of the bench," but the motion for the appropriation almost died for the lack of a second.

E. J. Maciasz, board member representing the state treasurer's office, finally seconded the motion by House speaker John Garrett.

Rayburn said the judiciary commission had been "unfair" with the board.

"THEY HAD this case in court. It's been investigated. What do they want to investigate—the investigators?" Rayburn asked.

Robert E. LeCorgne Jr., commission chief executive officer, said yesterday he has been advised that state police investigators also will be made available in the investigation.

On Feb. 8, LeCorgne appeared before the State Board of Liquidation and asked an emergency appropriation of \$7,500 for the probe of the judge, arrested Dec. 17 with 13 others in a vice raid on a New Orleans motel.

LeCorgne said at a press conference in the Supreme Court Building that some investigatory work already has been done by a private investigator, Walter Blumstein, but Blum-

stein likely will be replaced by state police investigators.

He said once the investigation is concluded, findings will be submitted to the commission, which will decide if a full-scale hearing complete with court reporters will be held.

LeCorgne would not say how much the commission will receive for the probe and possible hearing.

"The commission has gotten what it requested," he said.

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