

Score of Witnesses Appear  
HAGGERTY HEARING BEGINS

By JAMES HEARTY

More than a score of witnesses appeared today at the beginning of a Louisiana Judiciary Commission hearing into the behavior of Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr.

The hearing opened in the courtroom of the Louisiana Supreme Court. On hand were at least three state police officers to keep non-participants from the court building's second floor, where the hearing is being held.

More than 60 witnesses reportedly were subpoenaed, most called by Judge Haggerty's defense.

Judge Haggerty himself appeared this morning with his attorney, Robert N. Zibilich, but neither would comment on the hearing.

The seven-man Judicial Commission's probe was initiated following the judge's arrest last Dec. 17 in a police department vice squad raid on a stag party in the Motel DeVille, 3800 Tulane Ave. In addition to Haggerty, 13 other persons were arrested.

Criminal Court Judge Matthew S. Braniff later found his colleague innocent of charges of soliciting for prostitution, obscenity and resisting arrest in the incident.

Among witnesses appearing at the Supreme Court building this morning were at least two of the other persons arrested in the raid. They are Jean Clemens Shipp, 32, of 8110 Breakwater Drive and Victor M. Soto Jr., 926 E. William David Parkway.

PTN. RICHARD Siegel, one of the vice squadmen who participated in the raid, also appeared.

Other witnesses included Aaron M. Kohn, executive director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission; attorney F. Irvin Dymond, who represented Clay Shaw in last year's trial brought against Shaw by District Attorney Jim Garrison on charges of conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy, at which Judge Haggerty presided; Judge Joseph R. Bossetta of Municipal Court;

the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Arthur T. Screen, chairman of the city's Human Relations Committee; the Very Rev. William G. Gaines, pastor of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity; Frank Occhipinti, manager of the Rowntowner Motor Hotel; attorney Guy Johnson; Kenneth "Frenchie" Brouillette; Judge Louis P. Trent of the New Orleans

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Traffic Court and several policemen.

An unidentified lawyer accompanied Judge Haggerty and Zibilich. With Miss Shipp was her attorney, Michael F. Barry.

Also called today were R. M. Pence, a vice squad undercover agent who was present at the motel party; Gen. Raymond F. Hufft, regional commissioner for the Bureau of Customs here; A. P. Tureaud, attorney for the New Orleans chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People, and Janell Vincent, 21, 8110 Breakwater Drive, another of the women arrested at the December party.

After recessing for lunch, the commission adjourned until 2 p. m. today.

WHEN JUDGE Haggerty was asked if he expected to remain on the bench, he put a forefinger to his mouth and looked at Zibilich.

The witnesses were reported to have been told by the commission not to disclose their testimony after leaving the hearing room.

After the hearing got under way, several subpoenaed persons were seen leaving the building. They said they were subject to call.

ALTHOUGH THE hearing is confidential, the report of the commission to the Louisiana Supreme Court will be made public. The probe is expected to last at least a week.

The commission's investigation, financed by a \$3,000 appropriation by the State Board of Liquidation, could result in a recommendation to the Supreme Court that Judge Haggerty be removed from

the bench, or that he be exonerated of allegations of misconduct.

Robert E. LeCorgne Jr., chief executive officer of the Judicial Commission, has said the investigation will not be limited to the circumstances surrounding Judge Haggerty's arrest last year.

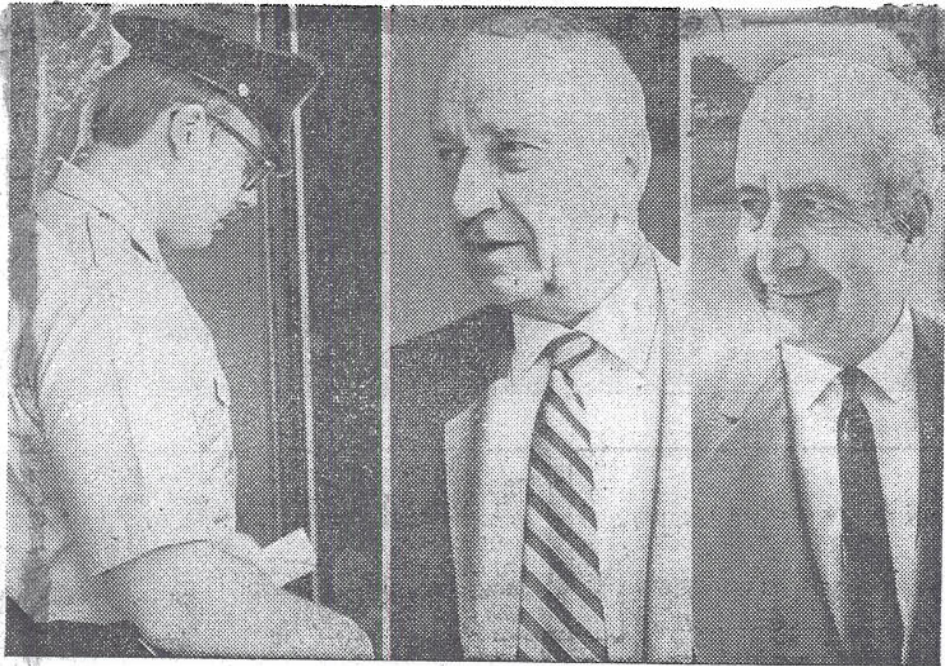
Several civic groups have called for the judge's resignation from the bench. They include the Metropolitan Crime Commission, the Chamber of Commerce of the New Orleans Area, the New Orleans Board of Trade and the New Orleans Bar Association.



JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY JR., right, is accompanied by his attorney, ROBERT N. ZIBILICH, as he arrives at the Louisiana Supreme Court for the beginning of a hearing into the behavior of the Criminal District Court judge.

—States-Item photo.





—States-Item photo.  
**AMONG THOSE ON HAND FOR THE OPENING** of the Judicial Commission's probe of the behavior of Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. were, from left, PTN. RICHARD SIEGEL, one of the vice squadmen who participated in a stag party raid Dec. 17; attorney GUY JOHNSON, and AARON M. KOHN, executive director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission.