

Tate Quits Case on Haggerty

Associate Justice Albert Tate Jr. of the Louisiana Supreme Court has recused himself from the Oct. 7 hearing by the high court on whether to remove Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. from the Criminal District Court bench.

Justice Tate removed himself from the case because he sat as chairman of the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana which recommended Judge Haggerty's removal after a week of hearings this past spring.

Judge H. W. Ayers, Shreveport, presiding judge of the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, has been named by the Supreme Court to replace Justice Tate in reviewing the case.

The seven man judicial commission's probe was initiated following Judge Haggerty's arrest last Dec. 17 in a police vice squad raid on a stag party at the Motel DeVillie, 3800 Tulane Ave.

In addition to Judge Haggerty, 13 others were arrested.

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

The judiciary panel's recommendation of removal was "on the grounds of willful misconduct relating to his official duty and willful and persistent failure to perform his duty."

The commission's 46-page report explaining its reasons for urging the judge's removal said in part:

"The essential reason for our recommendation of removal results from the cumulative effect of several delinquencies. Individually, none of them by itself might be ground for removal; cumulatively they demonstrate in the commission's opinion that the respondent Judge (Haggerty) should be removed from the judicial office and that his continued incumbency is detrimental to the administration of justice and to respect for our state's judicial system."