

## Unaware of Pinball Probe Beforehand, Police Chief Says

Police Supt. Clarence B. Giarrusso says he was not aware of the federal action against Sgt. Robert N. Frey and Capt. Frederick A. Soule Sr. beforehand and was not asked to cooperate in any investigation.

Giarrusso spoke at a press conference yesterday in reference to the arrests of Frey, vice squad commander, and Soule, an investigator with Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's staff.

Garrison, the two veteran NOPD officers and seven other men were named yesterday in federal charges of bribery, illegal gambling and obstruction of justice, all involving alleged illegal pinball machine payoffs.

Giarrusso said that until he has examined the allegations against the two officers he will not consider suspending them from the force.

"I AM SHOCKED to learn about the indictments or whatever they are," Giarrusso said at the beginning of the news conference.

"I'm trying to get in touch with the federal district attorney, Mr. Gerald J. Gallinghouse, to see how much he can reveal to me," he said.

He added that he needed to get information from the U.S. attorney for the purpose of planning an investigation of his own.

Giarrusso said he is proceeding on the basis that the officers are presumed innocent.

"I KNOW OF no presumption that they are guilty," he said in answer to questions about possible administrative action against Soule and Frey.

The action against the two is "evidently solely a federal affair," Giarrusso said in reference to his not being asked to cooperate.

"Frey is closer to me be-

cause he is in the most sensitive position," the police superintendent said.

Frey is head of the vice squad, and gambling is one of the crimes coming under the vice squad's jurisdiction.

**SOULE HEADED** the vice squad until his appointment several years ago as an investigator in Garrison's office.

"Until I heard and read of this, I thought Bob Frey was incorruptible," he said.

Giarrusso said that anything that adversely affects the Police Department adversely affects the public.

"Let's get it out into the open; I'll do anything I can to make the department whole again," he explained.

**GIARRUSSO SAID** that in the past officers have been suspended immediately upon being accused of violating regulations or committing crimes and reinstated later, if acquitted of the accusations.

"But in those cases we had certain facts to begin with," he continued. "I have no facts whatsoever."

"A short time ago, five or 10 minutes ago, I was handed a thick sheaf of papers which are allegedly the indictments or whatever they are," Giarrusso said in reference to the documents, which he had not had time to read.

Giarrusso said he would prefer to see pinball machines eliminated entirely from the city.