

More News Made By Pinball Figures

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, suspended vice squad chief Sgt. Robert Frey and two pinball machine firms, whose owners were charged in an alleged bribery scheme to protect illegal gambling, have made news on three different fronts.

—The New Orleans Police Department said Thursday it is investigating a report that Frey, suspended after being charged in the scheme, and his family leased a bar to TAC Amusement Co.

The state collector of revenue refused to comment on a letter saying that a Revenue Department auditor was refused permission to recheck the occupational license tax on Lucky Coin Machine Co. for 1969.

A POLICE spokesman said the lease agreement, between the Frey family and TAC is under investigation. The probe is headed by Maj. Thomas Drake, acting vice squad chief.

Records in the office of the clerk of Civil District Court

show that TAC leased the bar from May 29, 1970, until Dec. 31, 1971, with the option to renew annually for a seven-year period, and to install any type of musical equipment or amusement machines it wants.

Collector of Revenue Lee Agerton said he would not comment on the letter, referring all questions to his testimony before the legislative Mafia probe committee report.

The letter, dated Dec. 28, 1970, was written by E. E. Heatherwick to the committee concerning a \$12,840 check Lucky Coin attached to an application for a tax certificate nine months late.

HEATHERWICK said he wished to recheck with the occupational license tax division the Lucky Coin file, but was refused permission to do so.

Heatherwick raised these questions in the letter about the Lucky Coin payment: Why was the application held in abeyance from Feb. 23, 1969, until Dec. 30, 1969 (No interest or penalty is shown on the return)? Did the pinball license go to Lucky Coin before Dec. 30, and if so did the firm operate without a license for 452 machines on credit?

The letter, written to the committee, was not part of its final report.

On a related matter, Agerton said he plans to file liens against pinball machine operators who have not paid back taxes within 30 days after notice. No notices have been issued, he said.

AGERTON replaced Ashley Mouton as revenue collector last year after reports that the department was one of several which the underworld had penetrated.