

## Ruling Enjoins Ourso from Oath of Office

By VERNON A. GUIDRY JR.

PLAQUEMINE (AP) — Judge Daniel Kimball of State District Court today granted a temporary injunction to keep suspended Iberville Parish Sheriff Jessel Ourso from taking the oath for his second term.

The ruling came on a request by the state. It will prevent Ourso from beginning his second term while his attorneys go through lengthy legal maneuvers.

ATTY. GEN. Jack Gremillion had filed suit seeking the injunction, saying at the time that state police would be required to keep order in Iberville if Ourso were allowed to take office.

Ourso's attorney, Sam D'Amico, said, "an injustice is being done the people of Iberville Parish by preventing the duly elected sheriff from taking office."

D'Amico moved for a suspensive appeal which would have cancelled the effect of the injunction until the appellate court had ruled.

KIMBALL DENIED the motion and D'Amico announced his intention to seek a ruling from a higher court, forcing suspensive appeal.

The swarthy sheriff was visibly disturbed by the turn taken in this latest of his legal battles with the state.

"This is a kangaroo court," he said loudly as Judge Kimball left the courtroom. Ourso had refused to shake hands when approached by the judge.

OURSO WAS arraigned Monday in Judge Kimball's court on a criminal charge of malfeasance in office. He goes on trial on the charge Aug. 1. Arraignment remains on 32 other criminal charges lodged against Ourso by Gremillion.

They include theft, extortion and public bribery. They stem primarily from a security guard service Ourso operated for construction firms in the parish.

The state has also filed civil removal proceedings against Ourso, alleging corruption and malfeasance in office.

UNDER STATE law, the sheriff's office is being operated by the coroner in Ourso's absence.

The sheriff of this rural parish downriver from Baton Rouge first came to public attention when his name cropped up in testimony of detailing labor malpractice before the State Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry.