

WELVE

WEDNESDAY

JUDGE REJECTS CASE

N.O. Lawyers Free Of Bribery Charge

Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara today dismissed a public bribery indictment filed last May against two New Orleans attorneys, Steven R. Plotkin and Sanford Krasnoff.

Michael Karmazin, assistant district attorney, filed a bill of exception to the court's ruling after Judge O'Hara said the indictment was defective. He said he would issue written reasons for his judgment shortly.

Plotkin and Krasnoff were indicted May 22 for bribery involving a witness in a case against a police officer, Ptn. Robert Blanchard.

IT WAS CHARGED that they offered a round-trip airline ticket to and from New Orleans to Midland, Tex., or a round-trip airline ticket from New Orleans to any place of her choice, all expenses paid, to Linda Blanchard, a witness in the case against Blanchard.

The latter had been accused of manslaughter in connection with the death of Susan Goldman, a baby-sitter, Feb. 26, 1968. The manslaughter charge

was later dropped, and Blanchard was restored to his police duty by the city Civil Service Commission.

Judge O'Hara sustained a motion to quash the bribery indictment. The motion had been filed by Attorney Donald Organ Dec. 18, and argued today.

The indictment charged the attorneys with making the offers to "influence a witness in relation to her duty to appear and testify" in the Blanchard case.

14 MEDICAL SCHOOLS PLANNED

CHICAGO — The American Medical Association predicts that there will be 14 new medical schools in operation in the United States by 1970.

STATES-ITEM

Civil Service Unit Upholds Dismissal of 3 Policemen

Three police officers, who refused to take a lie-detector test and consequently were dismissed by the police superintendent, have been told by the City Civil Service Commission that the superintendent acted legally and they may not return to their jobs.

The Civil Service Commission acted yesterday after the three police officers — Clinton Grady Clayton, Harold Watkins LeJeune Jr. and Francis Joseph Blanchard — appealed to the commission for reinstatement.

They were dismissed from the police force by Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso on April 23, 1968, following an investigation of the Susan Goldman death. Miss Goldman was a teenager who, while baby sitting Feb. 25, 1968, was found strangled.

THE THREE officers were dismissed for not cooperating with the investigation in not taking the lie-detector test, the commission ruled.

In that investigation, police found among Miss Goldman's personal belongings a document containing the names of a few New Orleans police officers. It

was at this time that the police began an intensive investigation to determine if any policemen were involved in the incident.

The Civil Service Commission ruled that the lie-detector test was to have been administered to police officers in order to have as many police officers exonerated from any connection with the incident as possible. The commission pointed out that such a test would not have provided information permissible in court.

THE THREE officers "were not significantly singled out as suspects to a crime," the commission said, and the lie-detector test would have been used mainly to verify information already gathered.

The commission ruled that the police department was acting in an administrative capacity in dismissing the three officers and that they were not dismissed for committing any crime but for refusing "to carry out orders of their superior officers to cooperate in the intradepartmental investigation and submit to a polygraph (lie-detector) test."