

## Judge Charged in Party Raid

## HAGGERTY TO TAKE LEAVE

Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr., charged today with soliciting for prostitution, exhibiting "sexually indecent" motion pictures and resisting ar-

rest, said he will take a leave from the bench until his case has been tried.

The three charges were formally placed at about 11 a.m. against Haggerty by the District Attorney's office. The

56-year-old judge's attorney, Robert Zibilich, released a statement at about 1:30 p.m. in which he said Haggerty would begin his annual vacation immediately in the belief that "the administration of justice" could be better

served if he were not on the bench during the trial.

The charges, filed by the District Attorney's office, grew out of the Dec. 17 police raid on a room at the DeVille Motel, 3800 Tulane Ave., at which Judge Haggerty and 13 other persons were arrested. Later, three motel employes were arrested for alleged participation in arranging the party.

Judge Haggerty is the first of the 17 to be formally charged. First Asst. DA James L. Alcock could not be reached for comment as to when other charges would be brought. Alcock signed the charges against Judge Hag-

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gerty. DA Jim Garrison is recuperating at his home from a recent operation for a back ailment.

The specific charges against Haggerty and the possible penalties if he were found guilty:

—Wilfully and unlawfully soliciting, inciting, directing and transporting Janelle Vincent, 21, Wanda Norman, 39, and Jean Clemens Shipp, 32, with the intent to commit prostitution. The penalty is a fine of not less than \$100 or imprisonment for not more than six months or both.

—Resisting arrest by police officers P. Melancon, R. Pence and Richard Siegel. The penalty is a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year or both.

—Unlawfully, exhibiting and displaying lewd, lascivious, filthy and sexually indecent motion pictures with the intent to appeal to the prurient interests of the average person. The penalty is a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than one year or both.

The DA's office refused two additional charges against Haggerty on the grounds these were covered by the charges that were accepted.

Refused were a charge of simple battery against police officers, covered by the resisting arrest charge and a second count of conspiring to commit obscenity, covered by the obscenity charge that was accepted.

A spokesman for the DA's office said the charges were filed after consulting with Garrison. He said it might be necessary to bring in a judge from outside the Orleans Parish jurisdiction to try the case. Asked if Judge Haggerty would be required by law to recuse himself from trying other cases while facing the charges, the spokesman said there was no law requiring Haggerty to step down until he has been tried.

All the charges brought against Haggerty are misdemeanors.

JUDGE HAGGERTY gained national prominence during 1969 when he presided over the trial of Clay L. Shaw, accused by Garrison of conspiring to kill the late President John F. Kennedy. Shaw was acquitted.

The DA's office acted of its own accord rather than passing the case involving Haggerty to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

During the raid, Judge Haggerty appeared to struggle with policemen and emerged with a cut on his forehead.

Judge Haggerty reported for work the day following the raid and has performed his judicial duties.

**HE HAS REFUSED** to discuss the matter but did permit his attorney, Robert Zibilich, to tell reporters Haggerty expressed the belief he "is not guilty of the charges lodged against him" and will be completely vindicated.

Zibilich said the party at the motel was a "before-the-wedding bachelor party" for one of the 14 persons arrested and a \$5 collection was to pay for the liquor and the motel rooms.

**SGT. ROBERT N. Frey**, the vice squad commander who staged the raid, disputed the claim the gathering was simply a bachelor party.

Frey said an admission fee was charged at the party which is not customary at bachelor parties. The police officer said, in addition, an extra \$5 was requested for "live entertainment." Frey said there was also an understanding that after the entertainment, prostitution would take place for an additional fee.

Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso said he was not aware Judge Haggerty would be at the motel. The superintendent said Sgt. Frey told him "there might be some officials there."

**GIARRUSSO SAID** he instructed Frey to take action regardless of what officials were present.

Senior Judge Bernard J. Bagert of the Criminal District Court said the Louisiana Supreme Court will be the final authority on any disciplinary action against Judge Haggerty.

Aaron M. Kohn, managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, has called for Judge Haggerty to resign.