

# Trade Board, MCC Ask Haggerty to Quit

The Metropolitan Crime Commission and the New Orleans Board of Trade today called upon Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. to step down while he is under investigation by the Louisiana Judiciary Commission.

The MCC said it was repeating its earlier call for

Judge Haggerty to quit because the judge's acquittal Jan. 27 on charges growing out of his arrest in a vice raid Dec. 17 was based on what it called "legal technicalities."

The Board of Trade said Judge Haggerty's conduct "would seem to raise grave doubts as to (his) ability to command the respect of the community and to administer the criminal laws of this state

in a fair and impartial manner."

THE JUDGE was arrested during a stag party at the DeVille Motel but the criminal charges against him failed to stand up in court.

In a letter to Judge Haggerty made public today, the MCC's board of directors said:

"Many voices have been raised . . . reflecting widespread belief that you have betrayed the powers and trust vested in you to bring dignity and high standards, worthy of confidence, to the judiciary."

THE LETTER said Judge Haggerty's acquittal by Criminal District Judge Matthew S. Braniff was "in part based upon technicalities of criminal law and procedure."

Such technicalities, the letter said, "do not absolve you of violating the public trust, degrading the critically important role of the courts and rendering your court no longer worthy of respect or confidence."

The letter was signed by 19 members of the MCC board, headed by its president, James P. Schwartz.

It urged that the judge "immediately resign, or . . . withdraw from the performance of any judicial functions until final disposition of your case now under investigation by the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana."

THE COMMISSION is probing the Haggerty case to

See HAGGERTY—Page 6

## Haggerty

Continued from Page 1

decide whether to recommend to the Louisiana Supreme Court that the judge be removed from office.

Judge Braniff threw out three charges against Haggerty, ruling that the state failed to prove him guilty of obscenity, soliciting for prostitution or resisting arrest.

The obscenity statute does not reach into a private party, Judge Braniff ruled. He said the arrest of Judge Haggerty was illegal because of the lack of a search warrant, thus making the resisting arrest charge invalid.

THE STATE failed to offer sufficient proof to back up the soliciting for prostitution charge. Judge Braniff ruled.

Since the acquittal, the New Orleans Bar Association and the Chamber of Commerce of the New Orleans Area both have urged Judge Haggerty to step down pending the Judiciary Commission probe.

Other board members signing the MCC letter included:

C. Allen Favrot, William I. Monaghan, H. Eustis Reilly, Frank B. Williams, Philip Gensler Jr., Edwin C. Daniels, Aaron M. Kohn, C. Alvin Bertel Jr., Philip L. Frank Sr., Dr. J. D. Grey, Russell Hagland, E. James Kock Jr., Dr. Alton Ochsner Sr., William C. Penick, Robert R. Rainold, E. C. Upton Jr., Warren K. Watters and John W. Wilson.