

Sketches of Judiciary Commission Members

Haggerty Case--The Probers

By JAMES HEARTY

Four judges, two lawyers and a businessman make up the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana, which is conducting a probe into the behavior of Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr.

The investigation, announced by the commission's chief executive officer Robert Le-Corgne, could result in a recommendation to the State Supreme Court that Haggerty be removed or voluntarily retired from the bench.

A closed hearing may follow the investigation, but the law states that the record filed with the Supreme Court and relevant proceedings in the high court are public record.

Judge Haggerty was recently acquitted by fellow Judge Matthew S. Braniff on charges of soliciting for prostitution, obscenity and resisting arrest.

The charges resulted from an incident Dec. 17 at the DeVille Motel where police raided what Haggerty termed a "stag-party."

IMPLEMENTED legislation gives the seven-man judiciary panel the power to administer oaths, subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance, example witnesses under oath or affirmation and require the production of all relevant evidence.

It is possible that the commission will make no recommendations at all, which would essentially be another acquittal.

The investigation is conducted under a section of the law which provides:

"A justice or judge may be removed from office or retired involuntarily for wilful misconduct relating to his official duty or wilful and persistent failure to perform his duty or for habitual intemperance, or for conviction, while in office, of a felony."

Following are thumbnail sketches of the men who are charged with the responsibility of deciding the fate of Judge Haggerty:

CHAIRMAN JUDGE ALBERT TATE JR., Ville Platte, of the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, was born in Opelousas Sept. 23, 1920, the son of the owner of the Evangeline Cotton Oil Co. and various other businesses.

Judge Tate served in the Counter Intelligence Corps during World War II, with the infantry divisions in Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan.

He was elected to the bench in November, 1954, to complete the term of the late Judge J. Hugo Dore of the First Circuit Court of Appeal, and served as temporary justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1958, during the last illness and death of Justice Harold A. Moise. He was transferred to the Third Circuit Court July 1, 1960.

The judge and Miss Claire Jeanmard of Ville Platte were married April 23, 1949. They have five children. Judge Tate is a Catholic.

JUDGE ALEXANDER E. RAINOLD, presiding judge of Civil District Court for the parish of Orleans. He was elected judge of the court's Division F in August, 1948, for a 12-year term, and was re-elected for a second 12-year term.

He served in the House of Representatives from 1940 to 1942, having been elected from the city's 14th Ward. He resigned in 1942 to enter the military service. He was elected to the state Senate in 1946 and again in 1948, to represent the Eighth Senatorial District.

He resigned following the regular session of 1948 on being elected to the Civil District Court bench. Judge Rainold was a member of the Governor's Advisory Board to the Dock Board, and is a past president of the Pickwick Club.

Judge Rainold, a member of the Trinity Episcopal Church, married Miss Sarah Baldwin West Aug. 3, 1942. They have two children.

MURRAY C. FINCHER, New Orleans, vice president of the South Central Bell Telephone Co. in Louisiana, is 56, a native of Alabama and was transferred here from Atlanta in 1957, while the firm was still the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co.

Fincher is president of the Goals Foundation for Metropolitan New Orleans, and vice president of BEAM (Better Efficiency and Management), an organization formed to seek more efficiency in state government.

He also is a member of the Committee on Community Action and Crime Prevention and was chairman of the city's Committee of 50 in 1965 and 1966, organized to interest industry in locating in the city.

Fincher is a member and former chairman of the board of the Rayne Memorial Methodist Church, and is chairman of the board of regents of Loyola University. He is married to the former Jean Oliver, Birmingham, Ala. They have a married daughter, a son in the Navy, and a second daughter in college.

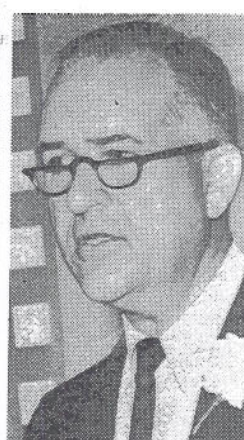
JUDGE WILLIAM LOGAN CROWE, of the First city Court of Monroe, the youngest man on the panel. Judge Crowe is 39, and a graduate of the Louisiana State University Law School in 1953.



JUDGE ALBERT TATE JR.



JAMES J. DAVIDSON JR.



CLARENCE L. YANCEY



JUDGE BEN N. TUCKER



MURRAY C. FINCHER



JUDGE ALEXANDER E. RAINOLD

He served four years as assistant city attorney in Monroe and two years as district attorney of Ouachita Parish. Judge Crowe holds memberships in the Louisiana Bar Association from the Fourth Judicial District, the American Bar Association and the Louisiana Law Institute.

In 1968 he served as chairman of the Northeast State College Alumni Association. He was elected to a six-year term and took the bench Jan. 1, 1967.

Judge Crowe is married to the former Alice Jane O'Kelly. They have four children ages, 5, 9, 14 and 15.

JUDGE BEN N. TUCKER, of the 21st Judicial District at Hammond. He is 56 and a native of Senatobia, Miss., having come to Louisiana when only 8 years old. Judge Tucker has been on the bench since March 28, 1963.

A member of the Louisiana State and American Bar Associations, Judge Tucker graduated in law at Louisiana State University in 1935 after taking his BA degree two years earlier.

His father, Benjamin A. Tucker, was a professor of mathematics at Southeastern Louisiana College.

Judge Tucker is married to the former Dorothy Ann Chauvin, Napoleonville, who served as secretary to the late Associate Justice Sam LeBlanc of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

They have one daughter, Mrs. Judith Tucker Seline, Miami, Fla.

JAMES J. DAVIDSON JR., Lafayette attorney, is 65, and a past president of the Louisiana Bar Association. He graduated from Tulane University with a law degree in 1927 after taking his BA in 1925.

Davidson, former member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association for two terms in the 1960's, practiced law here as a member of the firm of Monroe and Lemann two years before moving to Lafayette.

He presently is a vice president of the Louisiana Law Institute. A Methodist, he is married to the former Virginia Dunham, Hattiesburg, Miss. The Davidsons have one son, John J. Davidson III.

CLARENCE L. YANCEY, attorney, of Shreveport. He graduated from Louisiana State University in 1931, and served as president of the



JUDGE WILLIAM LOGAN CROWE

Shreveport Bar Association in 1950, the Louisiana State Bar in 1956 and 1957.

Yancey was president of the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce in 1966. He is active in the English-Speaking Union as director of the union's southwest region.

A Methodist, Yancey teaches a men's Bible class. He is married to the former Irene Gueydan, of East Feliciana Parish, who holds a master's degree from Newcomb College.