

Panel Plans Wider Probe Of Haggerty

BATON ROUGE (AP) — The chief executive officer of the State Judiciary Commission said today the commission is not confining itself to an investigation of State Dist. Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr.'s attendance at a stag party in New Orleans.

"It's more than that," declared Robert E. LeCorgne Jr. "It's not being confined to one night."

LeCorgne's comments came before the State Board of Liquidation where he was seeking an emergency appropriation of \$7,500 to finance the commission's investigation into Haggerty's activities. He said he could not divulge details because of the confidential nature of the proceedings.

ACTION on the request was postponed until next week and LeCorgne was asked to return with more detailed information on how the money would be spent.

LeCorgne's comments were prompted by Board Member Sen. B. B. Rayburn of Bogalusa.

Rayburn said the amount of the request was excessive and the request vague.

"It's going to cost the tax

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payers \$7,500 to find out what kind of ball he (Haggerty) was having," Rayburn declared, prompting LeCorgne to say more than one night was involved in the planned investigation.

HAGGERTY was arrested along with 13 other persons Dec. 17, 1969, in a room at the DeVille Motel.

He was charged with obscenity, soliciting for prostitution and resisting arrest. Haggerty maintained the gathering was a traditional before-the-wedding bachelor party.

He waived his right to trial by jury and was found innocent by colleague Judge Matthew Braniff, who ruled that the party was a private gathering and that police had no probable cause to raid it.

Haggerty presided over the trial of Clay Shaw on charges of conspiracy in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

LECORGNE said he would have to have some money "or bring this thing to a grinding halt."

He said a commission hearing is like a court trial and therefore expensive. He also said an investigator would cost about \$3,000.

The commission was put into the constitution in 1968. It has the right to investigate alleged misconduct or incapacitation on the part of a judge and recommend dismissal from the bench permanently or for a specified period, or involuntary retirement.

The commission voted to launch the investigation of Haggerty. It makes a recommendation to the State Supreme Court which then acts according to its own discretion.