

Haggerty Probe Near Conclusion

The Louisiana Judiciary Commission is expected to wind up its hearing on Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. today.

The hearings by the ethics agency concerns allegations of improper conduct by the judge, who was arrested Dec. 17 in a motel vice raid.

Judge Haggerty was later found not guilty of charges of soliciting for prostitution, obscenity and resisting arrest.

However, it was learned that the investigation was not confined to the arrest.

Yesterday the commission met from 1 p.m. to about 3:45 p.m. Thursday's session didn't end until 11:30 p.m.

The hearing is being run by Third Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Albert Tate Jr. of Ville Platte. Different court stenographers are being used each day so transcripts of the proceedings can be filed in the Louisiana Supreme Court within a week after the hearing ends.

The commission will recommend whether it thinks Haggerty should be punished. The court has the power to reprimand or remove him from office.

Libel Lawsuits Against Life, Writer Moved

Lawyers for Time Inc. and David L. Chandler today obtained removal from state court in Baton Rouge to federal district court in New Orleans libel suits brought against them by Gov. John J. McKeithen for the state and Emmett E. Batson, chief counsel for the Louisiana Department of Revenue.

The suits seek \$10 million for the state and \$2 million for Batson on charges of libel resulting from a Life magazine article by Chandler linking Louisiana government with the Mafia.

The suits were filed in state district court in Baton Rouge earlier this month and are now subject to a reply or request by the plaintiffs to return the suits to state court.

One of several motions filed today by attorneys of Time, Inc., publisher of Life, sought to dismiss both suits and asked for a change of venue from New Orleans to the Southern District of Texas. The attorneys said the case could not be tried fairly in Louisiana.

No date was set for a reply from the plaintiffs.

Partin Case Reactivated by U.S. Attorney

An 8-year-old, 26-count federal indictment charging Edward Grady Partin with manipulating union funds has been reactivated, U.S. Atty. Gerald Gallinghouse said here today.

The 1962 indictment charged Partin, business manager for a Baton Rouge Teamster local, with 13 counts of embezzlement of union funds and 13 counts of making false entries in union books and records.

PARTIN WAS indicted shortly before he testified against James Hoffa in the Teamster president's jury-tampering trial in Nashville. Partin claimed the government promised to drop the indictments in exchange for his testimony.

The case was never prosecuted and in 1967 the Justice Department asked Judge E. Gordon West of U.S. District Court to dismiss the indictment. West refused the government motion, suggesting the move amounted "to a payoff for testimony in the Hoffa case."

"We have reviewed the case and decided it should be reactivated," Gallinghouse said. "We can be ready for trial in this case at any time."

The U.S. attorney said his department would file replies to various motions by Partin by June 5.

ON ANOTHER matter, Gallinghouse said the federal court arraignment for Chevron Oil Co., indicted May 14 for 900 alleged violations of government regulations in offshore oil operations, has been reset for June 3.

The indictment against Chevron followed an oil well fire in the Gulf of Mexico which broke out Feb. 10 and resulted in heavy pollution off the Louisiana coast before the wells were capped at the end of March.

Gallinghouse said teams from the U.S. Geological Survey are inspecting other companies' operations in the Gulf. If violations are found, he said, the data will be presented to a federal grand jury the week of June 9.