

Judge Haggerty Again Is Asked To Leave Bench

Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. again has been asked by the New Orleans Bar Association to remove himself from the bench until the state Supreme Court conducts its hearing on him.

A statement issued yesterday by Charles L. Rivet, secretary of the Executive Committee of NOBA, says:

"When the current charges against Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. were referred to the Judicial Commission of Louisiana the New Orleans Bar Association called upon Judge Haggerty to take a leave of absence and not sit as a judge during the pendency of the charges.

"Now that the commission has acted on the charges and the matter is presently before the Supreme Court of Louisiana, the New Orleans Bar Association reiterates and reurges its former request, that in the public interest Judge Haggerty should remove himself from the bench until the charges pending against him.

"As was recently stated by an eminent jurist 'in these times of growing disrespect for law, for the courts, for orders of courts, I believe that we must all make every effort to educate and inform the public and reestablish public trust, confidence and respect in our entire system of justice.'"

Court Bench Only Ambition, Oser Claims

Criminal District Court Judge Alvin V. Oser, campaigning for election to the post to which he was appointed by Gov. John J. McKeithen, today said he has no political ambitions other than to remain on the bench.

He spoke at the Newsmakers Luncheon at the Press Club of New Orleans.

Judge Oser told his listeners, "I have now got what I have wanted all my life. I want nothing further than to continue as judge of the Criminal Court of New Orleans. My life's ambition is filled.

JUDGE OSER said some of his opponents have said he would be influenced in his judgeship by the governor or by District Attorney Jim Garrison, who had recommended his appointment.

The judge said it was true he was recommended by Garri-

son because the DA felt he was qualified as a judge. Oser reminded his listeners that he had served as assistant district attorney to Garrison and had tried all the office's murder cases during his years there, not losing one of them.

But Oser said others were recommended also but the governor appointed him after studying qualifications of all nominees.

THE JUDGE said when he took the oath of office he promised to be a 24-hour-a-day judge and he has made himself available at any time for signing warrants and paroles of persons arrested for minor traffic violations.

He said he faithfully has opened his court at 10 a.m. on each court day, five days a week. Oser also said he has instituted a program of improve-

ments for a fairer and more efficient system of justice in his Section Jr.

He said he has made a practice of holding pretrial conference to let potential jurors, police officers and other witnesses and deputies serving in his court know when their case is to go to trial rather than have them sit in the courtroom waiting for a certain case to come up.

He said since there is no way for a judge to handle more than one jury trial daily, there is no reason for jurors, witnesses and others to have to appear in court only to be sent home to appear another day.