

## 'Treatment Not Violation'

## DA REFUSES 'HEAD' CHARGES

District Attorney Jim Garrison today refused to press charges against 14 persons arrested last week in a police raid on the HEAD Clinic.

Police last Tuesday swooped down on the French Quarter medical care center and arrested the 14, including hippie leader Mike Stark, and booked them with contributing to the delinquency of minors.

Police charged that juveniles were being treated for venereal disease without their parents' consent and that runaways were being harbored at the establishment.

—The other persons living on the premises, 14 in number, were arrested and booked with contributing to his delinquency.

—“The isolated incident of employing a juvenile and allowing him to live on the premises after he had furnished fraudulent identification and date of birth is not indicative of any criminal intent on the part of the operators of the HEAD clinic, nor on the part of the persons who happen to live in the same building,” Garrison said.

“The charges, therefore, against the

GARRISON CRITICIZED the raid as “groundless and ill-advised” at the time and his decision not to prosecute was based on a report submitted to him later by the police department.

“Treatment of juveniles by qualified physicians is not a violation of the criminal laws of this state,” Garrison said.

Garrison said the report presented to his office by police established the following facts:

—Several juveniles were treated by

14 persons have been refused,” the DA concluded.

Since Garrison's office has the responsibility of pressing or not pressing (refusing) any charges brought by police, today's action effectively clears those arrested of any wrongdoing.

POLICE, WHO obtained search and seizure warrants for the raid from a former Garrison aide, Criminal District Judge Alvin V. Oser, contended treatment of juveniles for VD without parental consent is a state offense.

physicians at the Health Emergency Aid Dispensary Inc., 1117 Decatur, on an outpatient basis after having signed a request for free medical aid and consent forms.

—At time of the police action, Feb. 2, one of the 15 persons residing at 1117 Decatur was a juvenile boy who had left home in Minnesota without his parents' consent Dec. 7, 1970, and traveled to California prior to coming to New Orleans. He was employed at the HEAD clinic after having given a fictitious name and date of birth.

However, the legislature last year changed this section of the law, leaving the police with only the contributing charge to justify their action.

Police Supt. Clarence Giarrusso was not available immediately for comment on the DA's action.

After Garrison's initial criticism of the raid, Giarrusso said it “may be necessary for us to change our operation to be consistent with his legal opinion.”

The clinic reopened the day after the arrests and has been in operation ever since.

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At last someone from the establishment had enough courage to take a solid stand against the actions of the Police Department in their “raid” on the HEAD Clinic.

In refusing to press charges against the clinic that is set up to give aid to youngsters who have no other immediate care facility to turn to, Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison has shown the young people in this area that someone in the system hears their plea for equal treatment. . .

H. J. Albanese Jr.