

# Atteridge Attacks Juvenile Issues In Open Jury Hearing

Superior Court Judge James L. Atteridge in an open hearing this morning on the problems of juvenile delinquency before the county grand jury, told the packed courtroom that before the investigation was completed, he would show that the "pseudo experts" didn't know what they were talking about.

The session was prophesied by Judge Atteridge some time back when he told a reporter that he intended to call the unprecedented session as the result of a number of letters to the grand jury, regarding the handling of juvenile court and juvenile matters in this county.

The law permits such a hearing, if it is desired, the jurist pointed out at that time.

Today, with standing room only in the court, Judge Atteridge sat at a counsel table facing his empty bench. Beside him sat J. Ernie Balke, county probation officer, Lloyd Hebbroon, foreman of the grand jury and Richard P. Snyder, acting secretary, replacing Richard L. Hayden, who is in Europe.

Mrs. Louise Green, the court stenographer, recorded the testimony.

Charles Derby, juvenile officer of the Santa Cruz city police department, was called to the stand first by Hebbroon. Hebbroon said Judge Atteridge would question the witnesses and then questions could be asked by others in the discussion to follow.

"I want to examine Derby," the jurist told the group, "because this is an attack upon the administration of justice."

He referred to a letter written by Derby to the grand jury, suggesting certain changes or recommendations relative to the handling of juveniles.

Judge Atteridge said that since he was the judge of the juvenile court, he proposed to show that Derby was enlisting the support in various organizations without actually having any knowledge of

what he was talking about.

"Mr. Derby comes to us today with the empty title of juvenile officer," he stated. "When he comes before us here, he is in the simple status of a witness."

"In my opinion," he continued, "the grand jury has nothing to do with this matter but I have no objection to this body acting as a sounding board."

He then referred to the letter submitted to the grand jury which contained a number of suggestions, as referred by Derby.

By 12:30 p.m., four points brought out in the letter had been covered. There were obviously more contained in the communication in possession of the judge. A recess was declared upon a poll of the grand jury, which was to return at 1:45 p.m. to hear more witnesses.

The first recommendation in Derby's letter was the establishment of a 24-hour school to house juvenile delinquents.

"Do you know how much it would cost to build and maintain such a school?" Atteridge asked Derby.

Derby said he didn't but added that he said he made the recommendation and didn't feel it was his function to determine such costs.

The judge said he believed there would probably be seven or eight juveniles who would qualify for such a school, were it set up. He said it would be cheaper by far to send the girls to Dominican convent and the boys to Montezuma.

Atteridge said that there were provisions set up in the proper codes for the handling of juvenile problems.

"These men haven't got the guts to handle these matters as provided for by law," the jurist said.

He said Derby hadn't been able to prove anyone was a habitual delinquent and that such a statement from Derby meant nothing, as it contained no evidence, no proof.

"I feel cost is secondary," Derby said, referring again to the school.

Then, as the discussion continued, he turned to Hebbroon.

He explained that his letter was in the form of a suggestion that there might be a need for such a school and asked that the grand jury consider the matter.

A storm of applause from the women in the courtroom was deafening.

Judge Atteridge turned to Hebbroon and demanded that he ask the bailiff to maintain order in the court room. This was done. Many times during the remainder

delinquency  
P  
L  
h  
V  
p  
t  
c  
P  
N  
c  
th  
as  
wo  
of  
Th  
by  
Se  
"c  
ca  
pa  
E  
U  
y  
ra  
co  
a  
b  
ce  
e  
P  
m  
ce  
es  
29  
d  
n  
r  
(  
s  
t  
s  
M  
munity northeast of

## Index

	Page
Amusements .....	6
Classified Section .....	3-9
Comics .....	6-A
Delinquent Tax List .....	1-A to 5-A
Editorial Features .....	11
Home Ground .....	4
Markets .....	10
Radio and TV Programs .....	10
Society, Club News .....	3
Sports .....	5
Vital Statistics .....	10

of the session, the bailiff found it necessary to pound his gavel for order. It was expected the hearing would last throughout the afternoon as officials from city and county offices were expected to take part in the discussion. A number of them had been invited to attend, while others came of their own initiative.