

Bar Won't Veto Plans For County Courthouse

By Wallace Wood
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Most of the loud shouts over plans for the county courthouse died away yesterday—after the County Bar association voted not to fight the architect's design any longer.

Blame-placing for the weeks-long quarrel may have just begun, however.

The way is now cleared for county supervisors to order final interior changes in the single-story courthouse, which will be part of a \$5.25-million complex at Ocean and Water streets. Bids probably will be opened in late April or early May.

Attorneys and judges have asked to see working drawings and to reserve the right to request minor changes as a result of yesterday's meeting.

Attorneys and judges brought bidding plans to an effective halt weeks ago by demanding a total redesign of the courts and the clerks' offices.

In a prepared statement, bar committee chairman Louis Rittenhouse said the demands were dropped "in view of the extreme cost which would be entailed by the resulting delay" of a complete redesign. Architect Burton Rockwell had estimated redesign would cost \$400,000.

No sooner had the bar approved this report when the subject of guilt for causing the delay reared its noisy head.

Attorneys attacked Supervisor Francis Silliman for placing much of the blame on Superior Court Judge Gilbert

Perry. Silliman has been acting as peacemaker during the dispute, but "lost his temper," he said.

Silliman had told fellow supervisors Monday that "one principal person acted as if the courthouse was not going to be built, ever. He didn't live up to his obligations." Silliman at first declined to name the person, but later said he referred to Perry, "who has only stood in the way and failed to make constructive suggestions."

Some attorneys demanded a public apology from the supervisor for such an "unwarranted attack," but the bar agreed on a resolution which said it regrets the statements made by Supervisor Silliman, and can only conclude they were based on misinformation.

"I was sorry to have to name the judge, but I could not let statements made by Burton (Supervisor Robert Burton) go by without rebuttal," Silliman said today.

Burton had defended the judge Monday as trying since 1963 to have the basic courthouse plans changed.

Supervisor Tom Black indicated yesterday that Burton might share much of the guilt for the late-blooming quarrel.

When reminded that Burton was appointed as the original liaison member between the board of supervisors and the judges and the bar in 1963, Black said, "If that's true, then this mess should never have happened. If we had a liaison member, why didn't he bring this problem to the board over a year ago, when it was working on the plans?"

Burton said this morning he "didn't know about these problems because they (sup-

ervisors) never asked me in when the architect was down. Three supervisors make a quorum, you know, so only two could meet with him at one time."

Burton said he "just didn't" talk to Rockwell at other times, nor did he attend meetings between the judges and the architect.

"I saw the plan that the judges had, and I supposed that the architect was considering them. I see he wasn't."

Other board members have said Burton first took the final plans to judges, hoping to gain support for his contention that ducting and water pipes should not be exposed in the building.

It was after viewing these plans that the judges and attorneys staged a revolt against the design.

Judge Charles Franich claims that a letter was sent to the board in late 1963 detailing some objections of the bench, making it plain at that time the plans were unacceptable.

"I can't say for sure what will happen when the plans come up for approval Monday," Silliman said today, "but I think some board members may roll up their sleeves."

News In

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A dispute already has reached There were rumblings from others as of the big union continued to be cl

LBJ Ousts
Harriman