

PARENTS OF YOUTHS ANGERED

# Ex-Teacher Given Suspended Term In Sexual Assault On Boy

A former Indianapolis school-teacher received a suspended 1-to-5-year prison term yesterday from Judge John T. Davis in Criminal Court, Division 1, following the defendant's plea of guilty to a sexual assault on a 14-year-old boy last January. According to a police investigation last February of the activities of Thomas E. Hacker, 33, who then lived at 388 South Audubon Road, he had been sexually involved with more

than 300 youths in the last few years. The suspended sentence angered the parents of three youths who allegedly had been involved with Hacker. However, Judge Davis made it clear to Hacker that the case against him was by no means over. "I'M PLACING you on probation for a period of two years. During that time you

will make regular visits to the probation department and give a complete account of all your activities. "As a further provision of your suspended sentence, you are to continue psychiatric treatment under the care of your physician, Dr. Ronald H. Hull, and you are to remain under his care until he discharges you and so notifies the probation department," the judge said.

"This suspended sentence is further conditioned upon your good behavior. At any time during the next five years, if you violate any of the terms of this suspended sentence, you are facing a 1-to-5-year term in the State Prison, and that includes failing to report to your doctor for treatment," Davis warned. OUTSIDE THE courtroom, the two mothers and one step-

father of youths who allegedly had been involved with Hacker, voiced disgust at the suspended sentence. "I firmly believed that justice would be done," one mother said, "but this isn't justice . . . He's right back on the streets. If he ever comes near my son again I'll see to it that he never comes to court." "That man was involved

with 300 kids," the second mother said. "God only knows how some of them will turn out as a result of their experiences with Hacker . . . It's just disgusting. How is a man like that removed from society?" The stepfather said, "My son appears to be all right. . . I only hope he remains that way. It seems all a person has to do these days to escape punishment is say he's sick. . . .

I'll never understand it," he said. AFTER ENTERING a plea of guilty to the charge last month, Hacker's attorney, Ernie S. Burke, introduced on Hacker's behalf a series of character witnesses and Dr. Hull, who testified Hacker has been under his care and supervision since he was arrested. Dr. Hull told the court that Hacker had made significant

steps toward recovery and that he believed Hacker could be completely cured with additional treatment. Hacker, police said, was active in youth work as a teacher in Public School 57, 5435 East Washington Street, and as a Scoutmaster for Troop 3 at Irvington Presbyterian Church, 55 Johnson Avenue. Hacker is married and the father of two children.