

Two Men Bound Over In Sign Shop Sex Case

Judge Frank L. Harlor of Municipal Court, Room 6, bound over to the Marion County grand jury yesterday two men charged with committing sodomy with young boys in an Eastside sign shop.

The hearing was quick for one of the men, for whom sources said an examination will be sought to have him declared criminally psychopathic and to have him committed to a hospital for the criminally insane.

The defendants are Donald Strange, 30 years old, owner of the Strange Sign Shop, 4619 East 10th Street, and Robert E. Schmidt, 46, 1349 North LaSalle Street.

John W. Lawson, attorney for Strange, waived the hearing before Harlor. Strange is

being held in Marion County Jail under \$10,000 bond.

SCHMIDT'S lawyer, Charles O. Johnson, spent 45 minutes, most of them loudly, trying to convince Harlor the Marion County prosecutor's office had rigged the arrest affidavit to include his client after the arrest was made.

Johnson made his assertions under oath, and called another Municipal Court Judge, Val S. Boring, of Court 4, to testify.

Schmidt was arrested Feb. 13 in connection with alleged acts of sodomy at Strange's shop.

JOHNSON charged a paragraph had been added to the "probable cause" affidavit issued to authorize an arrest warrant. He said the paragraph was added after the arrest, making the arrest illegal.

Roy L. Volstad, supervisor of Municipal Court prosecutors, argued that the first paragraph did not name Schmidt, but that the second paragraph did.

Johnson shouted, "That's why the prosecutor changed it."

Johnson asked Volstad if he would take an oath to his statements, and Volstad said he would because he had written the affidavit.

Judge Boring, who issued the probable cause affidavit and the arrest warrant, said under oath that he does not remember what the affidavit said and that he talked only with policemen assigned to make the arrest, not with youths who knew anything about the case.

CALLING Detective Sgt. William B. Kaiser of the Police Homicide Division to testify, Johnson asked if the questioned affidavit was the one Kaiser served.

"To the best of my knowledge," Kaiser said.

Johnson asked if it was possible for the affidavit to be changed, and Kaiser replied, "Anything's possible."

Johnson also claimed the arrest warrant has been "lost," and said that was reason for dismissing the charge against Schmidt.

WHEN VOLSTAD tried to argue his case, he was interrupted by Johnson.

Volstad yelled, "Will you let me finish? I didn't interrupt you." And Harlor remarked, "That's right, Mr. Johnson."

After Harlor overruled Johnson, the attorney asked why Schmidt is being held under \$25,000 bond, compared with Strange's \$10,000 bond. Harlor said it was due to Schmidt's alleged suicide try at his home the day after the arrest.

Harlor found it necessary after the preliminary hearing hassle to have a probable cause hearing for Schmidt, and a 14-year-old boy testified about the alleged acts of perversion.

The mother of the boy who testified was distraught throughout the hearing. She said she feared Harlor would free Schmidt.

Meanwhile, Kaiser reported that parents of five boys out of 18 who participated the most in acts of perversion have asked for psychiatric help for their sons. Kaiser said the Board of Public Safety will bear the cost of the psychiatric care.