DISTRICT ATTORNEY STAFFERS — than Stansbury (seated) assumed the office of district attorney for the 15th Judicial District in January this year, after defeating his former boss in an election. Aiding Stansbury in the prosecution of cases in Lafayette Parish are (from left) Ronald Dauterive, general assistant; Mrs. Frances Gilfoil, traffic assistant; and Byron Legendre, first assistant DA. Stansbury and his staff have won each of the major jury trials brought to court since he took office this year.
New DA Highlights

Year For District

Adviser 1 April 1974

The changing of the guard was the highlight of the past year in the District Attorney's office for the 15th Judicial

District.

Bertrand DeBlanc, who had served the parishes of Acadia, Lafayette, and Vermilion as chief prosecutor for the past 18
years, lost his bid for a fourth term in the office, and his former assistant, J. Nathan Stansbury, assumed the post.

Since the crime rate has surpassed the steady growth of the 15th Judicial District, court dockets became clogged, and
prisoner had been waiting weeks before ever appearing in court.

To combat the problem, the district attorney's office has instituted a three-week period which provided arraignments every
week, the rehy affording persons charged with crimes an opportunity to have the status of their case determined quickly.

Short Paroled

Hearings on paroled persons and preliminary hearings are also held each week so that attorneys for persons who plead "not
guilty" may have their motions to have the case nullified heard within as short a period of time as possible. Formerly, arraign-
ments and motion hearings were scheduled only once a month, according to Stansbury.

Another of Stansbury's first moves after taking office in January was to hire outstanding young attorneys as assis-
tants including one or the state's top criminal prosecut-
or, Byron Legendre as his chief prosecutor in the "Dixie Mafia" trial of Kirksey McCord.

Continued On Page 51

(Co ntinued From Page 48)

and run, driving while intoxicated, speeding, reckless driving), with a total of 6,695 offenses charged in the three parishes
and 6,530 convictions obtained.

Of major crimes reported in the district last year, there were eight charges of murder with one conviction; 12 charges of
attempted murder, two convictions; nine charges of manslaughter, five convictions; 11 charges of negligent homicide,
three convictions; 69 charges of aggravated assault, 39 convictions; 26 charges of aggravated rape, one conviction;
10 charges of kidnapping, no convictions.

Also, 122 charges of burglary, 33 convictions; 18 charges of armed robbery, one conviction; 16 charges of prostitution,
16 convictions; 452 charges of driving while intoxicated, 327 convictions; 327 charges of escape, three convictions; nine
charges of possession of marijuana, no convictions; 28 charges of sale of marijuana, four convictions; 66 charges of
marijuana possession, 19 convictions; and 21 charges of posseSSlon of other illegal drugs, eight convictions.