State Names 2 to War on Crime, Vice

Probe Peoria and Sangamon

Atty. Gen. George F. Barrett yesterday announced appointment of special assistants to make "full scale sweeping investigations of alleged gambling, vice, and crime conditions in Peoria and Sangamon county," he said.

As a press conference following the announcement, Barrett said that his office will take any action deemed necessary when the findings of the two assistants are reported.

State Police To Co-operate

All the assistance needed from his office, plus state police provided by Gov. Green, will be available to the special assistants, Barrett said.

James A. Howe, former mayor of Oak Park, will move into Peoria today and set up headquarters at the Jefferson hotel. Oliver H. Bovik, Chicago attorney, and former member of the Cook county state's attorney's staff will leave for Sangamon county Wednesday. Both men have been in Barrett's office, but were removed from that designation when the new appointments were made.

Act On Pleas of Citizens

The probe of illegal gambling and the investigation of downtown gambling clubs as the result of letters to Barrett from citizens in Peoria and Springfield, Barrett said the Peoria Association of Commerce had written him saying that there was need for further investigation there, even after a grand jury returned indictments against the state's attorney, the sheriff, and a state's attorney's investigator.

The slaying of Bernie Shelton, gambling boss, last July 28, touched off the Peoria situation. Relatives and associates of Shelton, a few days after he was killed from an ambush, produced recordings made on June 26 of a conversation between Shelton and Roy Gatewood, who was identified as an emissary between State's Attorney Roy P. Hull and Shelton. The conversations discussed a request for $25,000 which Gatewood was reputedly asking for the state's attorney.

Hull Denies Seeking Bribe

The recordings were made the day after Shelton and two others had been indicted on assault to kill charges which arose out of the "pistol whipping" of a patron in the Parker club, Shellton establishment near Peoria. Hull subsequently denied that he had sought the bribe as a price for quashing the indictments. He was nevertheless indicted, and, on evidence given by a tavern owner and night club owner of "mucky" gambling, Sheriff Earl Spaichower and Charles Ronay, Hull's investigators, were also indicted.

Hull refused to comment last night on appointment of the special investigators.

Bovik said yesterday his plans are not yet completed for the investigation, adding that a petition entered in Circuit court in Springfield Saturday asking for a special prosecutor and a special grand jury there may alter the attack he will make on conditions in the state capital.

Nine Springfield residents petitioned for the special grand jury (Continued on Page 7, Col. 1)