



Atty. Gen. Barrett (left) and the men he appointed to investigate gambling and vice in Sangamon county (Springfield) and in Peoria: Oliver H. Bovik and James A. Howe (right). (TRIBUNE Photo) (Story on page 1)

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# STATE NAMES 2 TO WAR ON CRIME, VICE

## Probe Peoria and Sangamon Pleas

(Picture on back page)  
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 counties."

At 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 assistant attorneys general, 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 Springfield in Sangamon county, Wednesday. Both men have been regular assistants in Barrett's office, but were removed from that designation when the new appointments were made.

**Act On Pleas Of Citizens**  
The two pronged investigation of downstate gambling came as the result of letters to Barrett from citizen groups in Peoria and in 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 26, touched off the Peoria situation. Relatives and associates of Shelton, a few days after he was killed from 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 Parkway club, Shelton 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 tavern and night club owners of "sneak" gambling, Sheriff Earl Spainhower and Charles Somogyi, Hull's investigator, 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 capitol.

Nine Springfield residents petitioned for the special grand jury

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# NAME 2 TO PUSH PROBE OF PEORIA, SANGAMON VICE

## Action Follows Protests from Citizens

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to investigate alleged combinations of persons reported to accept money to allow gambling activities. A date for hearing on the petition will be set today in Springfield.

Howe and Barrett conferred yesterday on the Peoria situation, but plans were not immediately disclosed.

"I have directed Mr. Howe to conduct his investigation in the most thoro and exhaustive manner," Barrett said. "I anticipate that his work will necessarily involve many weeks of concentrated effort. I am prepared to supply him with all necessary personnel for a staff that will be fully adequate to carry this investigation to a successful conclusion in whatever direction or directions may develop."

**Peoria Group Asked To Help**  
To the Peoria group Barrett wrote: "I assume—and I am confident that the assumption is justified—that your organization, its officers, directors and members, will extend full and sincere cooperation to Mr. Howe in his work."

Howe is a past president of the Oak Park Real Estate board. He served as director and secretary of the Illinois Association of Real Estate Boards. At the present time he is vice president of the West Suburban Bar association and is a member of the Illinois state bar and other professional societies. He is a graduate of De Paul university's law school.

Bovik, who resides at 7201 Prairie av., was on the state's attorney's staff from 1920 to 1922. He is a member of numerous fraternal and business organizations and is past president of both the South Side Swedish club and the John Ericsson Republican League of Illinois.

**Even Rumors To Be Probed**  
Barrett, who met reporters at his office with Bovik and Howe, said that all charges made, "rumor or otherwise," will be looked into by the two men.

To a reporter's question, he said that a story in an out of state paper accusing one of his employes with being a "collector" for the state, was "totally untrue and totally libelous." He stressed that the investigations were to be nonpartisan, and that the special assistants would have no obstacle in their probe.