

BOMB BLASTS PEORIA HOME OF PROSECUTOR

Believe Gambling Ban to Blame

Peoria, Ill., Dec. 16 [Special]—
The home of Peoria county's Dem-



Shore

ocratic state's attorney, Michael A. Shore, was blasted by a bomb tonight. Shore and a maid, the only persons in the house at the time, were unhurt.

The prosecutor, who took office a year ago Dec. 6, indicated the bombing may have been perpetrated by professional gambling interests, long simmering with resentment over his refusal to permit a return to the days when Peoria was a "wide open town."

The bomb, said by Detective Curt Heggatt to have contained black powder, was either planted or thrown at the rear of Shore's eight room brick colonial style home on fashionable Crestwood dr. about 8 p. m.

Blast Rocks Neighborhood

The blast rocked the neighborhood as the bomb exploded beside the attached brick two car garage of the residence. It ripped a hole about 18 inches in diameter in the garage wall, and gouged a hole of similar diameter and depth in the ground beside the garage.

It also splintered the garage eaves, shattered three windows in the adjacent kitchen, and broke a window in the next door home of George Cummings. It did not damage Shore's new 1950 model sedan, parked in the garage.

Shore was in the living room at the front of the house when the blast came, and the maid, Mrs. Bertha Petersen, was on the second floor.

Wife, Children Away

Shore's wife, Goldye, and their two children, Edward, 14, and Barbara, 10, were attending a Christmas carol program at the Thomas Jefferson elementary school, where Edward is a pupil.

Shore at first said he had "no idea who did it, or why," but later added, "It might be in retaliation for my crackdown on lawlessness in Peoria county."

Shore said he has not been threatened recently, but it was recalled that several mysterious threats were made against him last summer after he stated publicly that he was "sick and tired of rumors that I am going to allow gambling to reopen in the county."

The threats came from unidentified persons who telephoned Shore's home. One caller told a maid, "We can take care of him," meaning Shore.

Actually, the "lid" has been on gambling here since July 26, 1948, when Bernie Shelton, gambling czar and leader of the long notorious Shelton gang, was slain from ambush near here.

Observers agreed that there now is no professional gambling operation of any importance here, although an occasional punch board or similar betting device pops up now and then. The bombing, it was said, may have been a not too gentle "hint" from restive gamblers who would like to get back into business.