

# Guilty Verdict In Trial Of Alleged 'Madam'

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A verdict of guilty was returned in Police Court today by Magistrate David C. McCarthy in the case of Viola Ann Pryor, 45, charged with being keeper of a house of prostitution at 409 Aiken avenue.

Sentencing was taken under advisement until Oct. 27.

Mrs. Pryor and two other women, Carolyn Pierce, 28, and Barbara Ray, 21, were arrested by Sheriff Ray Trunk May 28 after he had gone to a nearby house to unlock the place, which had been padlocked by a Circuit Court order.

**THE TRIO WAS** given a hearing in Police Court July 1, with Trunk as the only witness. Charges against the Pierce and Ray women, who had been charged with being inmates, were dismissed for lack of evidence.

Eugene Pratt, defense counsel for the trio, asked the court for permission to file briefs with the court asking dismissal of the charges against Mrs. Pryor after Judge McCarthy said he would take the case under advisement. The briefs were subsequently filed and studied by the court until announcement of the findings this morning.

After announcement of the guilty verdict, Pratt asked Judge McCarthy for permission for Mrs. Pryor to testify to facts constituting extenuating circumstances supporting his request for a fine and not a jail term for the woman.

She took the stand and testified she recently underwent surgery at the Illinois Research Hospital in Chicago for cancer of the nose and is required to regularly return for observation and treatment. She said she is scheduled for another checkup Oct. 20.

IN ANSWER TO a question of Pratt, Mrs. Pryor said she is also attending the Midstate College of Business and is studying typing and office procedure.

Pratt introduced a medical record to support his client's treatment at the Chicago medical center.

After her testimony, the court asked Paul Slavens, assistant state's attorney, if he had any recommendation on a sentence. The prosecutor, in keeping with the policy of his office, asked for a jail sentence of three months.

Judge McCarthy ordered Mrs. Pryor to return to court Oct. 27 — a week after her next checkup in Chicago — and said he would take the sentence under advisement until that date. He ordered her bond of \$2,000 continued in force.