

2 Families Say Lives Changed After Raids by Drug Agents

By **ANDREW H. MALCOLM**

Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, May 18 — Two Illinois families testified before a Senate subcommittee here today that their lives had been drastically changed by unauthorized and mistaken raids on their homes recently by Federal narcotics agents.

One of the families, the Herbert Giglotts of downstate Collinsville, also said that family members were now apparently being investigated by men who had questioned friends and relatives after identifying themselves as agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Giglotto family and the Donald Askews, also of Collinsville, an eastern suburb of St. Louis, were in their homes the night of April 23 when bands of shabbily dressed armed men broke in, presented no search or arrest warrants, searched the premises and left after admitting they had made a mistake.

Mr. and Mrs. Giglotto testified under oath today that they were handcuffed by screaming agents, thrown on their bed, verbally abused with a stream of obscenities and repeatedly threatened with death while an agent held a cocked gun to Mr. Giglotto's head. Much of their apartment was ransacked and damaged.

The dramatic, sworn testimony by both families, which affirmed earlier newspaper accounts, brought occasional gasps today from a crowd of 100 spectators gathered in the Dirksen Federal Building here.

Merger Proposed

Also present at the hearing were Senators Charles H. Percy, Republican of Illinois, and Sam Nunn, Democrat of Georgia, both members of the Subcommittee on Reorganization, which is considering a proposal by President Nixon to merge the Federal Government's drug abuse programs under a single agency, the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The reorganization would become law unless Congress disapproved by July 11. No opposition was expected when the proposal was announced March 28. However, a resolution to disapprove the move received an 18 to 18 tie vote yesterday in the House Committee on Government Operations. Representative Jerome R. Waldie, Democrat of California, said that he might take the disapproval measure to the House floor next week.

Federal prosecutors and regional officials of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, the Customs Bureau and the Office for Drug Abuse Law Enforcement, which would all be merged under the plan, testi-

fied today in favor of the merger.

But attention at the hearing was focused on two families. Mr. Askew, a service station operator, has sued the Federal Government for \$100,000 in damages. Mr. Giglotto, a boiler-maker, plans to file a suit soon.

Country and Federal grand juries are investigating the raids.

Mr. Giglotto testified that he had been laid off his job since the raid at his home by some 15 men attached to the Office for Drug Abuse Law Enforcement in St. Louis. He said that since the raid he and his wife, Evelyn, had been unable to sleep well, and that the Federal Government was trying to discredit him by sending F.B.I. agents to investigate him after he talked to a newspaper reporter about the raid.

"We're scared to death, Senator," Mr. Giglotto testified, "we're scared to talk on the phone, to answer the door or start the car."

"You can rest assured," Senator Percy, who presided at the hearing, replied, "that I will find out who ordered this investigation." Mr. Percy said that although he had been cleared to handle top secret material, he had been unable to obtain a detailed report on the incident from the drug abuse agency, which has acknowledged that its men made the raids without permission or warrants.

Wife Hospitalized

Since the raid at his home, Mr. Askew said, his wife, who fainted when she saw the armed, bearded men at their windows, has been hospitalized. His son, Michael, 16 years old, and the Giglotts said that some friends now shied away from them, apparently in fear of being investigated too.

"What these agents have done against drug pushers is good," Mr. Askew said. "But for what they did to me, I hate them."

"Our country is decaying from within," Mrs. Giglotto charged. "We're all being eaten up by a cancerous growth in the name of justice. My faith in the Government has gone. Why vote? They're going to do what they want anyway."

In later testimony J. Michael Fitzsimmons, regional director of the drug abuse agency, said that "no-knock" raids were "almost indispensable" in narcotics enforcement because evidence could be destroyed so easily, but that it was "unusual" for agents to enter homes without a warrant.