

WARD ORDERS BOY'S ARSON CASE INQUIRY

Acts After Parley with Police

LETTER OPENS PROBE

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Investigation of boy's background disclosed he was the "problem child" in Cicero school he has been attending. Story on page 2.

State's Atty. Daniel P. Ward yesterday ordered his aids to question a 11-year-old boy

in the tragic fire of 1958 at Our Lady of the Angels school after receiving a copy of a confession signed by the youngster, now an 18th grade pupil in a Cicero school, that he set the blaze.

Ward acted after an hour and a half conference with Cicero and Chicago police and fire officials in the Criminal courts building. He directed his chief investigator, Roswell T. Spencer, to make the investigation.

The decision to act was partly based on files turned over to Ward by John E. Reed, head of John Reed & Associates, 600 S. Michigan st., a credit photograph operator, who obtained the confession last Friday.

Retrains from Comment

Ward said he would make no comment on the case because it might prejudice the interests of the people or the boy.

But he asks his staff should handle the matter, one way or the other. Ward has assistants assigned to the Criminal courts



Judge Citiella discussing case of young arson suspect.

and to Family court, where most juvenile cases are handled.

The boy will be taken to Family court this morning and will be represented by Atty. John Cogan. A delinquency petition is expected to be filed simultaneously.

The conference followed disclosure by THE TRIBUNE that the boy had confessed setting fire to Our Lady of the Angels school, 808 N. Avers st., on Dec. 1, 1958, while he was a 5th grader there. He escaped injury, but 22 other children and three nuns perished in the fire.

Citiella Denies Custody

Judge Alfred J. Citiella of Family court said he could not take action until someone filed a delinquency petition with his court. Cicero officials, however, maintained that the boy already was under that court's supervision.

Capt. Chris T. Rooney, Cicero safety director, said the boy

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