

New Sheriff; Bad News

Fifth Estate Collective

1968

The cause of criminal justice in Detroit received a setback with the appointment on May 23 of Roman S. Gibbs as Sheriff of Wayne County.

Gibbs, who is presently a Traffic Court Referee, will replace ticket-fixing Peter Buback who resigned from the post after removal proceedings had been begun against him by State Attorney General Frank Kelley.

The Detroit civil rights movement best remembers Gibbs for his role as prosecutor in the First Federal Bank sit-in cases in 1964 and against Barry Kalish for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. In both cases Gibbs zeal for conviction was matched only by his ruthlessness. In the Kalish case he actively conspired with the police to bring charges against Kalish he knew to be false.

All Buback was interested in doing was to get the graft; Gibbs hates.

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