

Murdaugh Resigns, Prepares Defense

COLUMBIA (AP)—Randolph Murdaugh of Hampton, unshackled with the official duties of 14th Circuit solicitor, is getting down to the business of preparing a defense to charges that he violated federal liquor laws.

Murdaugh last night submitted his resignation as solicitor to Gov. Timmerman. The governor accepted it.

Murdaugh, who is under federal indictment with 29 others in a Colleton County liquor conspiracy case, is slated to go on trial in Charleston Sept. 17.

In his letter of resignation to Timmerman, Murdaugh said, "This action causes me deep sadness but out of fairness to you whose confidence in my integrity I greatly appreciate, and to the people of my circuit who have expressed confidence in my innocence I feel that it is the proper course to pursue."

Murdaugh said further that he took the resignation step "out of respect for the responsibilities of the office, to which for the next few weeks I cannot attend and in order to give an opportunity to select a qualified person in time to acquaint himself with the affairs of the office."

The governor's office had no immediate announcement of a replacement.

Murdaugh asserted that "I am innocent of the charge of conspiracy that has been brought against me."

"The security, honor and happiness of my wife and children face destruction, my personal integrity and liberty are at stake."

Murdaugh added, however, that he welcomed "an early opportunity to clear my name of the outrageous charges brought against me."

1956.09.08 - Murdaugh Resigns Seat