

# He skirts jail term — again

**Ex-county official  
is 4-time offender**

By **WILLIAM P. BARRETT**  
*Of The Bulletin Staff*

Camden — For the fourth time in eight years, former Camden County official Edward A. Goldsmith has been punished for a serious crime without drawing a jail sentence.

Superior Court Judge Neil F. Deighan Jr. yesterday put Goldsmith, 67, on two years' nonreporting probation and barred him from public office for his admitted role in accepting a bribe in return for a promise to persuade a judge to go light on a drug pusher.

But Deighan said a jail sentence was not warranted for a variety of reasons, including Goldsmith's age, his health, the public stigma attached to his past record and the light sentences meted out to other offenders in similar circumstances.

"I don't feel in this matter there's a risk of future violations," Deighan said. "I don't think imprisonment will do Mr. Goldsmith any good."

The maximum penalty Goldsmith could have received was seven years in jail and a \$100,000 fine.

Following the brief proceeding in the county courthouse here, Goldsmith, a long-time Democratic politician who lives in Pennsauken, hurried from the courtroom without comment.

For Goldsmith, a former county purchasing agent and election board chairman, it was his second sentencing this year and his fourth since 1971. In none did he receive a jail sentence, although the later charges did drive him from office.

The others:

— In 1971 he drew a \$3,500 fine and a suspended two-year jail sentence in U.S. District Court, Camden, on six counts of income-tax evasion. Federal prosecutors said he failed to pay tax for several years on both his own income and that of his bail bond agency.

— A Superior Court jury convicted him in December 1976 on charges of misconduct in office, obstruction of justice and giving false information growing out of his efforts as county purchasing agent to sell a county car and pocket the pro-

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# Goldsmith again escapes jail term

## 4-time offender gets 2-years' probation

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ceeds. In January 1977 he was fined \$3,000, given a suspended sentence, put on two years' probation and barred from public office during the probation.

In February of this year Goldsmith was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Philadelphia, to three years' probation and again banned from public office for his role in obstructing a federal investigation into alleged irregularities in Philadelphia's 1978 general election. His co-defendant, Ransom F. Shoup 2d, 54, of Quakertown, Pa., whom prosecutors had hired to aid them in the investigation, was convicted on the same charges, conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

At Shoup's direction, Goldsmith had presented a copy of Shoup's re-

port on the voting problems to city officials and offered to make parts of it less critical, according to the testimony.

Yesterday's sentencing involved Goldsmith's admission that he accepted \$800 cash and a portable color television set from Wilbert Jones Jr., promising to turn the gifts over to Superior Court Judge Rudolph J. Rossetti, who was scheduled to sentence Jones on heroin distribution charges.

Rossetti, who sentenced Jones to five to seven years, was never involved in the scheme, Goldsmith said when he pleaded guilty in June. A second count, obtaining money under false pretenses, was dropped.

In reaching his sentencing deci-

sion, Judge Deighan said that in other bribery cases far greater sums of money were involved without a jail sentence. He cited one defendant involved in an \$18,000 bribe who drew a five-year suspended sentence with no incarceration.

He also noted the notoriety Goldsmith's legal problems have received and the state Insurance Department's 1977 revocation of his bail-bond license. "I think he has sustained punishment because of the loss of his business and the adverse publicity," Deighan said.

Joseph Tomaselli, lawyer for Goldsmith, told the judge his client suffered from poor health, include hemorrhoids, arthritis and hypertension.



**Edward A. Goldsmith**  
*... former purchasing agent*