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## Dibble fired by prosecutor

By JOHN NORBERG  
Staff Writer

John Dibble, chief deputy in the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office, and Roberta Levy, office manager who worked with investigators, both have been fired in surprise moves by Prosecutor James Kizer.

Kizer, a Democrat, refused to comment on either dismissal. Dibble was fired at 11 a.m. Saturday, after having worked all night Friday on an investigation. He worked with police until 5:30 a.m. Saturday.

Mrs. Levy learned of Dibble's dismissal Sunday. She was dismissed at 9:45 this morning.

Mrs. Levy said she had no comment, but said "I did not do any-

thing that would cause me to believe I would be fired."

She had been employed in the prosecutor's office for two years, working previously as secretary to former Prosecutor David J. Crouse.

Dibble would not comment this morning on the firing.

However, Dibble met first thing today with three state police officers at his private law office on 4th St. The meeting was in private and matters discussed were not disclosed.

Kizer confirmed the firing this morning after he learned Dibble had released the information, but declined to make any comment beyond that.

"I just can't comment at this

time," Kizer said. "There are a lot of legal reasons why I can't comment. I have good reasons why I'm not saying anything," he said.

Dibble said he would make no statement today on anything related to his firing. Asked if he planned to take any action as a result of the dismissal, he answered, "No comment."

The firing was a surprise to most members of the prosecutor's office, Lafayette attorneys and local law enforcement officers.

Police said they had worked especially well with Dibble and indicated they were unhappy with his firing.

"That man was well thought of," one officer said.

Attorneys and members of the

prosecutor's office were approached with questions on the dismissal, but all said they had no information.

"It's a real shock," one attorney in private practice said.

Dibble was hired by Kizer shortly after his election to office last November. Dibble also had worked as a deputy under former prosecutor Crouse, a Republican.

During his 10 months as chief deputy, Dibble won two life-sentence convictions and tried a large number of cases both in Lafayette city and county courts.

Recently, he was prosecutor in the Bruce Eldridge case. Eldridge was the first person to be convicted on a habitual criminal charge in Tippecanoe County in 12 years.

He also tried the first-degree murder charge brought against Darrell Kincaid, who was convicted of murdering his former wife.

Both received life sentences.

Dibble also filed the charges against Wesley Bagnell, a former Democratic candidate for sheriff, on charges that he failed to report he was a convicted felon in filling out forms for a liquor license.

"John's a very talented and capable young man," Kizer said. He said he would comment on the dismissal only if Dibble issued a statement.

Dibble said he might make some comment at a future time.



**JOHN C. DIBBLE**  
... fired as deputy prosecutor