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Sheridan Sues To Avoid N.O. Jury Hearing

Network investigator Walter Sheridan filed suit today in Federal District Court to stop Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and Grand Jury foreman Albert Labiche from forcing him to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Sheridan's attorneys filed the suit asking that the NBC special investigator not be required to go before the jury. Earlier this week Sheridan was ordered to appear after he filed a similar suit in Civil District Court alleging Garrison had harassed him with charges of public bribery out of a personal animosity.

Yesterday Civil District Judge Bernard J. Bagert ordered Sheridan to appear at a hearing Tuesday to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of court for

failing to appear before the grand jury.

ASSISTANT DIST. ATTY. Alvin V. Oser, in asking for the show-cause order, told the court that Sheridan was summoned to appear before the grand jury July 19, that Sheridan appealed to the Louisiana Supreme Court and lost his plea Monday to block the subpoena. He said Sheridan was notified through his attorney, Milton Brener, that the jury was in session, that his presence before the jury was required, and that he failed to appear.

Brener said Sheridan could not appear before the jury because he was in Detroit on assignment. Brener also said Sheridan would probably not appear Tuesday at the hearing because he has been required to testify before a federal court in Chicago on that day on a matter involving Teamster Union President James A. Hoffa.

In his newest maneuver to avoid testifying before the grand jury, Sheridan's attorneys asked the federal court to enjoin Garrison from enforcing the subpoena to appear and to grant a restraining order to prevent the DA from further prosecuting the charges against him.

SHERIDAN, ALONG with local television newsman Richard Townley, is charged with public bribery. In addition, Townley is charged with intimidation of a state witness in connection with a recent TV show critical of Garrison.

In the suit, Sheridan alleges that Garrison has exploited the legal purposes of the grand jury and his position as legal adviser to the grand jury.

Sheridan says Garrison has sublimated the criminal laws of Louisiana to his own use and to the end of "harassment and intimidation of those who criticize and disagree with his conduct as a public official."

The suit was allotted to the court of Federal Judge Alvin B. Rubin, who scheduled a hearing on the matter at 9 a.m. Monday.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

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