

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

GOVERNOR WON'T QUERY GARRISON

Says \$10,000 Was Given for Investigation

By Betsy Halstead

Gov. John J. McKeithen said here Sunday he has no intention of asking Jim Garrison for an accounting of \$10,000 he gave to the district attorney's Kennedy assassination probe.

The governor said when he gave the money to Garrison he didn't ask for an accounting of the funds, only that they be used in the district attorney's investigation.

"At the time I presented him with the money there was no criticism of my investigation," he said. "At that time we thought he might have something."

McKeithen made his comments prior to attending the second anniversary performance of the Desire Community Chorus at the George Washington Carver High School Auditorium on the outskirts of the Desire Project.

'MOTHER OF YEAR'

The governor had been invited to attend the performance by Mrs. Margaret Williams, "Mother of the Year" of the chorus.

The governor said he gave the funds to the district attorney's office and not to Truth and Consequences, the organization created to fund Garrison's investigation.

He said he wouldn't have had the authority to give the funds to a private organization.

He said Garrison had in fact written to him and said he needed additional funds for his investigation.

"I didn't try to make a secret of it," the governor said. "There were lots of people who knew about it."

When asked who besides himself knew about the \$10,000 contribution, the governor said the district attorney and members

of his staff.

He said no effort was made to keep the contribution secret, although the press may not have known about it.

Last week, Attorney William J. Wegmann, representing Clay L. Shaw at a hearing in federal court, revealed the \$10,000 contribution by McKeithen.

McKeithen said Sunday he gave the money to Garrison because he thought it was important "to carry out the investigation."

He said there were obviously other people who felt the same way since "I understand he was re-elected recently with a strong vote."

Speaking about his plans after he leaves the Governor's Mansion in 1972 McKeithen said he may oppose U.S. Sen. Allen J. Ellender.

Asked what he thought his chances would be against Ellender, recently elected president pro tem of the Senate, McKeithen answered, "Let's see what he'll do for Louisiana."

He said he still has a year and a half to make a decision about running.

STRUCK OUT

McKeithen struck out at Aaron M. Kohn of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans, Inc., and Ed Steimel of the Public Affairs Research Council accusing both men of "negativism" toward Louisiana.

"When they make negative statements about the state then see what happens to the tourist business in the state," he said. "Kohn hasn't turned up a Mafia man yet."

The governor said tourism is at an all-time low in Louisiana because men like Kohn and Steimel tell businessmen that if they come to Louisiana the Mafia will get them.

Prior to the start of the Choir's performance Mrs. Williams explained why she invited the governor.

"People have seen the other side of the Desire community, she said. "We want them to see the good side."

"These children started the

choir to prove to the public that all people are created equal, but all have different thoughts, ways and actions," she said.

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