Louisiana Atty. General Has Found 'No Grounds' To Prosecute Garrison

WILLIAMSBURG — Louisiana's attorney general Tuesday said he has no intention of prosecuting New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison for his investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

Jack P. F. Gremillion said the Metropolitan Crime Commission, various citizens and the NBC television network had urged him to prosecute.

Gremillion said, however, he has found no grounds on which to prosecute Garrison.

Sworn Duty

"Garrison has a sworn duty to do his job and he should be given the opportunity to conduct the investigation," Gremillion said. "If he exceeds his authority the law will have to take care of it in due course."

Gremillion spoke at a meeting of the Southern Regional Conference of Attorneys General at the Williamsburg Conference Center. He made the remarks, he said, because his fellow attorneys general are interested in the case.

"Several years ago I prosecuted Garrison on a charge of public defamation," Gremillion said, "for libelious statements about several state judges. A conviction was upheld by the Supreme Court of Louisiana and we argued the case twice before the U. S. Supreme Court before the court ruled in Garrison's favor."

The law enforcement and criminal justice assistance bill of 1967, if it is passed by Congress, will provide federal money for grants to state and local authorities to improve every aspect of their police programs as they see fit, Braun said.

A second bill, resulting from the crime commission's report, will prohibit the interstate mailing of handguns and the sale of handguns to nonresidents of a state.

Crime Report

Richard L. Braun, executive assistant of the criminal division of the U. S. Department of Justice, also spoke to the attorneys general Tuesday and discussed "Crime control and administration of justice — needs for state action as viewed by the President's commission on law enforcement and administration of justice."

Braun reviewed the crime commission's report which recommended additional training and equipment for police personnel as well as a division among police officers which would compare the enlisted men and commissioned officers in the armed services.

Local Coordination

The two major recommendations of the commission, according to Braun, were coordination and planning between state, county and city police forces, and spending more money for police protection.

The report suggested all states and every large city and county develop several informed and responsible groups to serve as planning bodies.

"Criminals are not hampered by city - county or state boundaries," Braun said, "but police officers often can not cross these lines. There is an amazing lack of communications between cities."

The report also criticized local authorities for not utilizing sufficient resources.

"The national expenditure for police, prisons and juvenile control was about $4 billion last year," Braun said, "and that is less than one - third of the amount spent on whiskey. Expenditures for police protection are rising at an average of 5 per cent a year but the crime rate is up 7 to 10 per cent."