

1-8-67 State I Item

DA Backers Must Bare Files--Court

A group of businessmen financing District Attorney Jim Garrison must produce its membership and financial records by Monday, Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. ruled today.

Judge Haggerty, who is ill, signed subpoenas at his home to accomplish the following:

1. Order "Truth and Consequences," the businessmen's group, to deliver records of its membership and disbursements to the court at 10 a. m. Monday.
2. Direct Garrison to turn over records of receipts and disbursements of the privately donated funds.

Garrison and the T&C group won a round on another front, however, when an attorney for Gordon Novel said the fugitive witness will withdraw his suit against them rather than return to New Orleans.

T&C has been providing funds for Garrison to pursue his investigation of the slaying of President John F. Kennedy, which Garrison contends was plotted in New Orleans. Thus far, the names of only a few of its 50 members have been revealed.

SALVATORE PANZECA, ONE OF THE lawyers for Clay L. Shaw, under indictment for criminal conspiracy in the death of the president, appeared at Criminal District Court today with the subpoena requests, and subsequently went to Judge Haggerty's home and got them signed.

Shaw's attorneys want the records in time for the Monday hearing at which defense and state lawyers are expected to clash over a motion to quash the 54-year-old New Orleans businessmen's indictment.

Panzeca said the first subpoena directs the three officers of T&C—Joseph M. Rault Jr., Willard Robertson and Cecil Shilstone—to produce membership lists and records of donations and money spent.

ON THE NOVEL MATTER, attorney Steven Plotkin said the \$50 million suit will be withdrawn. He explained:

"I have been in contact with Gordon Novel concerning this particular question and he has requested his suit be voluntarily withdrawn at this time."

Plotkin's action came after Federal District Judge James A. Comiskey ruled yesterday that Novel would have to return to New Orleans to testify in order to press the suit.

IF HE RETURNED, NOVEL would be subject to arrest on a warrant charging conspiracy to commit burglary in connection with the alleged burglary of a Houma munitions bunker.

Plotkin said Novel reserves the right to refile the suit if he so desires within a year of the alleged offense. The suit had charged that Novel was libeled and deprived of his constitutional rights by Garrison as a result of the funds given by T&C members.

Novel's decision not to return at this time was made "from a safety standpoint" as well as to preserve his constitutional rights, Plotkin said.

THE ATTORNEY MAINTAINED THAT for T&C to give funds to Garrison clearly violates the state's public bribery statute which forbids private organizations from giving funds to state agencies except through the state treasurer.

He said there is no doubt Garrison is a state official because "when he goes into court he files his action in the name of the state."

Plotkin said Novel is "willing and ready" to return to testify before the grand jury or any other public body.

"The only thing keeping him from returning are the criminal charges against him," said Plotkin. **END**

'Truth' Group Has No Qualms On Baring Rolls

By JACK WARDLAW

An official of a group of businessmen backing District Attorney Jim Garrison said today that disclosure of the group's financial records and membership lists will present no problem.

Automobile dealer Willard E. Robertson said the financial figures are no secret and he does not believe any of the group's approximately 50 members will object to having his name made public.

"All of us are proud of Jim Garrison and are still behind him 100 per cent. None of us are backing out," said Robertson.

ROBERTSON SAID the group is now officially named "Truth and Consequences of New Orleans Inc." since the old name of "Truth and Consequences" was preempted by a Garrison foe, attorney Dean A. Andrews Jr.

Yesterday, Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. ordered the group to produce its membership and financial records at a hearing Monday. He acted on a motion by attorneys for Clay L. Shaw, the retired businessman accused of plotting to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Shaw's attorneys wanted the records in time for the 10 a.m. Monday hearing on their motions to quash the indictment charging Shaw with conspiring to kill the President. Judge Haggerty, who is ailing, signed the subpoenas at his home yesterday.

Garrison also was ordered to turn over to the court records of receipts and disbursements of the privately donated funds.

T&C WAS ORGANIZED after Garrison complained that press reports of the public

records showing expenditures of his office were hurting his investigation. At that time, it was announced that each member would donate \$100 a month.

Robertson said today that since it began in February, T&C has collected a total of \$9,418 from its members and Garrison has used \$9,032 in investigative expenses, leaving a current cash balance of \$386.

The donations will continue, said Robertson, so long as Garrison needs them. He de-

nied reports of a rift between himself and Garrison, and said he and the DA just had a 2½-hour conference to discuss renaming the group and other matters.

He quoted Garrison as follows:

"Since Mr. Andrews has seen fit to steal the title of T&C, for obscure purposes of his own, we are changing the

title of our organization to Truth, Inc. We are going to leave the consequences to Mr. Andrews."

ROBERTSON EXPLAINED, however, that it was later decided to go with the full title of "Truth and Consequences of New Orleans Inc." in order to avoid confusion.

The old name was taken over by Andrews, who is under indictment for perjury in connection with Garrison's investigation of the alleged Kennedy plot, when he reserved rights to the corporate name with the secretary of state's office.

Robertson said the new name has now been properly registered and T&C has full rights to it. He said the group will legally incorporate under that name.

He said the member who was supposed to reserve the old name was "remiss in his duties" and Andrews was within his rights in taking it over.

ROBERTSON ALSO commented on the action of Steve Plotkin, attorney for Gordon Novel, the fugitive witness in Garrison's probe, in withdrawing Novel's \$50 million suit against T&C.

Plotkin said yesterday he would withdraw the suit, and today it was dismissed without prejudice, meaning that it can be refiled.

Robertson said "either the \$50 million suit had no basis to begin with, or Mr. Novel was willing to pay a very heavy price to keep from coming back to New Orleans."

Novel had sued Garrison and T&C on the grounds that he was libeled and deprived of his constitutional rights by Garrison as a result of the donations by T&C.

The former New Orleans nightclub owner is fighting extradition from Columbus, Ohio, on a charge of conspiracy to commit burglary. He is also sought as a material witness in the Kennedy probe.

Federal District Judge James A. Comiskey ruled Wednesday that Novel would have to return to New Orleans to testify in order to further the suit.

Officers of T&C named in the subpoenas signed by Judge Haggerty yesterday were Robertson, oilman Joseph M. Rault Jr. and businessman Cecil M. Shilstone. END

CBS Expects 'Warren Report' Headlines

By ELEANOR ROBERTS
Traveler Television Editor

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Boston
Traveler

NEW YORK — Look for CBS-TV's "The Warren Report", coming up on three successive nights in prime time on June 25, 26 and 27 (Ch. 5) to make headlines.

While executive producer Leslie Midgeley wouldn't reveal what CBS News comprehensive research and tests have turned up, he told TV editors at the CBS affiliates meeting here that the content of the telecast will make the front pages.

"The 'Warren Report' will mark another kind of milestone for us since CBS News will—clearly and explicitly—state its own conclusions on the major issues involved," Richard S. Salant, president of CBS News emphasized.

"We shall define all the major issues as they have developed—for example, whether the rifle was Oswald's; how many shots there were;

whether the same bullet hit President Kennedy and Governor Connally; what the time span was from the first to last shot; what directions the shots came from," he said.

"And instead of having the critics and defenders argue about who said and did what, we are going back to the evidence itself and to some of the key witnesses.

"We have found some new experts and conducted some new and enlightening ballistic and photanalytical tests. For those who still have an open mind we hope to substitute light for heat, understanding for confusion and meaningful analysis for shrill debate."



RICHARD SALANT

Salant and his staff carefully weighed the unusual idea of presenting "The Warren Report" on three successive nights at the same hour—10-11—rather than in a single three-hour segment.

"It's the first time television journalism will treat a single subject this way. We feel that

substantial hit like 'Family Affair', 'Daktari' or the 'Smothers Brothers' we'll be happy," he said.

"The trend at the moment in TV is toward reality. Gimmick shows have run their course with very rare exceptions."

Fred Friendly would get a kick out of the good-natured quips about him at the CBS meetings, here.

"Now that McGeorge Bundy has been called back to the White House to work out some kind of permanent peace for the Middle East, Fred Friendly is replacing him temporarily," Walter Cronkite announced.

"With an assignment like that Bundy will never get back and Fred will take over."

"Do you miss Fred Friend-

ly?" Bill Leonard of CBS was asked during a press conference.

"Of course," he replied. "A day without Fred is like a month in the country." *DVD*

devoting an entire evening to a single subject may be impressive for public relations purposes but it's pretty overwhelming to be hit by a ton of wet hay and can get a little tough on a viewer. Even "Cleopatra" provided an intermission.

"When a subject warrants this kind of comprehensive treatment, it's more sensible and considerate of the viewer to break it up. We will still maintain continuity and will bring viewers who might have missed one of the segments up to date with a capsule review at the beginning of the second and third telecasts."

Will viewers stay home three night in a row—at the end of June when TV viewing usually drops off to watch "The Warren report"? Both Salant and Midgeley think the subject matter is of such vital importance and interest that they'll get a large audience all three nights.

So you've been complaining

right along that TV programming is pretty sad sack—but nobody up there is listening. Don't flip but the top brass is getting around to agreeing with you—publicly—and planning to do something about it.

What worries them is a possible sharp drop-off to viewers.

"I'd like to call your attention to a phenomenon," Perry Lafferty, vice-president in charge of Hollywood programming at CBS-TV, told 750 affiliate executives.

"Something is happening within the American television

audience. The ratings on specials like Mark Twain, "The Death of a Salesman", certain National Geographic specials and "The Final War of Oddy Winter" indicate that a mass of the viewers are being attracted to programs that have more substance and depth to them.

"We intend to give these dimensions to certain of the new series we are developing. Because, if we don't grow along with the audience, they inevitably will start to desert

us—much as the movie audience turned away from the crush of the 'B' pictures in the early 1950's.

"We must do better. In television the age-old questions is burning brighter every day—the question that can no longer be answered by programs that are pallid imitations or programs that are foolish and childish," Lafferty warned.

The network has invested more than \$8 million—double the cost of 'Gone With the Wind'—in this year's development of 21 pilots, Lafferty revealed. But only six series made the schedule.

"If one of the six is a

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Hopes Dim for Novel Extradition--Governor

Gov. John J. McKeithen said today there are strong indications the state will not be able to extradite Gordon Novel, the fugitive witness in District Attorney Jim Garrison's probe of the slaying of President John F. Kennedy.

Also, the governor said, in a Baton Rouge news conference, Gov. John Connally of Texas has written him that he would prefer that another missing witness, Sergio Arcacha Smith of Dallas, be returned to Louisiana under the Uniform Witness Act rather than as a fugitive on a burglary conspiracy charge.

In another development related to Garrison's investigation, the Metropolitan Crime Commission today urged Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion to investigate charges that Garrison's office attempted to bribe and intimidate a witness.

IN A LETTER signed by MCC President E. C. Upton Jr. and managing director Aaron M. Kohn, the MCC cited an article in Newsweek Magazine making the charge

against Garrison.

Garrison has been trying to extradite Arcacha and Novel on charges of conspiracy to burglarize a munitions dump at Houma in 1961.

Bringing the witnesses back under the reciprocal witness act would give them immunity from arrest on any charge.

Gov. Connally told Gov. McKeithen he would hold the extradition request in abeyance.

GOV. M'KEITHEN SAID the Ohio governor, who had previously rejected extradition papers, now wants to know the authority of an assistant DA to file a complaint.

He said he has made four or five telephone calls to Ohio Gov. James Rhodes, but Rhodes has refused to return his calls. *END*