

April 22, 1967 S. C. L. S.

# MCC ASKS LA. OF GARRISON

6/2/67

The New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission today called on Louisiana Attorney Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion to launch an exhaustive investigation into the manner in which Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison is conducting his Kennedy death plot probe.

In an eight-page letter to the attorney general, the crime commission said it wants Gremillion to select a blue-ribbon committee to name a special panel of three investigators.

The MCC letter, signed by Managing Director Aaron Kohn and President E. C. Upton Jr., was a reaction to a National Broadcasting Co. program Monday night.

**THE LETTER** called attention to the hour-long NBC show and declared:

"If accusations broadcast throughout the nation on Monday night are true, the people of New Orleans are without basis for confidence that the laws of this state will be applied so as to convict the guilty and exonerate the innocent.

"On the contrary, there is reason for fear that anyone may be charged and prosecuted based upon contriving false evidence.

"We believe we express the opinion of all objective observers when we state it is now imperative that an of-

official, impartial, fact-finding procedure be established to immediately and exhaustively examine all allegations made against the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office."

Garrison reacted to the network program by asserting that NBC is "using the big lie" to "torpedo the attempt to get at the facts surrounding the President's death."

He has charged that NBC newsmen interfered with state witnesses and offered them

inducements to appear on the nationally-televised program.

**CALLING ATTENTION** to the NBC special report, the letter from Kohn and Upton said:

"The NBC program, through various persons interviewed, contained the following allegations:

"1. John Chancler, convicted burglar and current prison inmate stated that:

"a. Witness Vernon Bundy admitted to him that he had lied in the Clay preliminary hearing.

"b. District attorney investigators Louis Ivon and Lynn Loisel took him from prison to evaluate the possibilities of illegally entering Clay

Shaw's residence 'to put something in there.'

"2. Miguel Torres, convicted burglar and Angola inmate, alleges that:

"a. Witness Vernon Bundy admitted he had testified against Clay Shaw to escape 5-year imprisonment for parole violation.

"b. DA investigators Lynn Loisel and Louis Ivon offered

I. Jones

# PROBE TACTICS

to have him released immediately from his nine-year prison sentence, if he would make false statements against Clay Shaw."

Bundy testified at the preliminary hearing for Shaw, who is charged with complicity in Kennedy's death, that he saw Shaw and accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald together on the New Orleans lakefront in the fall of 1963. He said he saw Shaw give Oswald money.

The Cancler accusation originally was carried in the New York Times. Cancler had several times told varying versions of his story to New Orleans newsmen. Cancler declined to sign a sworn statement.

**SHAW, A 54-YEAR-OLD** retired businessman, was bound over for trial after the preliminary hearing. He is free

125

on \$10,000 bond. Garrison charged that he conspired with Oswald, the late David W. Ferrie and Oswald's eventual killer, Jack Ruby, to murder Kennedy at Dallas in 1963.

Shaw is the only living member of the group. Ferrie, a onetime airline pilot, was found dead at his apartment here five days after the Garrison investigation became public knowledge.

The MCC letter noted that NBC commentator Frank McGee said the network news department has information that Bundy was given a lie detector test and flunked it before taking the witness stand.

M'GEE SAID Bundy was placed on the stand by Garrison despite protests from the DA's chief assistant, Charles Ray Ward.

Other major points in the MCC letter cover a number of allegations repeatedly made against Garrison and his inquiry, including one which has been refuted by the New Orleans Police Department.

"Alvin Beauboef," the crime commission letter said, "stated that DA investigator Lynn Loisel told him 'his boss' would see that he would get a job and \$3,000 if he made statements they were seeking: that Garrison was aware of the offer; that Loisel and another DA investigator, Louis Ivon, threatened him with physical harm and defaming disclosures if he did

of either bribery or intimidation.

Another point cited in the letter was NBC's allegation that star witness Perry Russo, who testified he overheard Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie plotting Kennedy's death, failed to pass a lie detector test.

Russo held a press conference Tuesday and denied the NBC charge. He said he was too nervous to take a polygraph test on two occasions and that no electronic evaluation could be made of his statements. Russo's story was backed up both by Asst. DA Andrew Sciambra and Leonard Gurvich, a private investigator who was in charge of the polygraph test.

In its letter, MCC asked Gremillion to name a select committee composed of the deans of the law schools of Louisiana State University, Tulane and Loyola universities, the presidents of the Louisiana, New Orleans and Criminal Courts bar associations, and the presidents of Public Affairs Research Council, the Council for a Better Louisiana and the State League of Women Voters.

MCC WANTS the group to act as a nominating committee to select three "exceptionally qualified lawyers" who would become special assistant attorneys general and conduct the investigation of Garrison's office.

"We urge you to recognize that this matter has importance transcending personal and partisan political considerations," MCC told the attorney general.

Reached at Baton Rouge, Gremillion said he has received no communication from MCC and knows "nothing about it." EWD

## Reacts to 'Probe' Call

# DA Answers Kohn: 'Take Claim to Jury'

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison reacted to the Metropolitan Crime Commission's call for a state investigation of his office today by challenging MCC Managing Director Aaron Kohn to take his charges before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

"I will request the foreman to call him," the DA added.

Garrison, replying to the commission's letter to Atty. Gen. Jack Gremlion, charged that Kohn "knows better" than to believe the "current fiction" carried by the National Broadcasting Co.

"BUT," SAID the DA, "he has never been known to let the truth stand in the way of his great pronouncements."

"Strangely enough," Garrison noted, "Kohn made a similar pronouncement recently when he said that my office had 'bribed' Alvin Beauboeuf, a possible witness in the case.

"When an investigation by the police department revealed that the bribe attempt claim was fraudulent and that a supposed supporting tape had been altered, Mr. Kohn was strangely silent."

GARRISON SAID "Kohn has to know that in five years my office has never had a

single conviction reversed because of improper methods.

"Nevertheless," the DA said, "the word from Washington is that our investigation into the assassination of John Kennedy has to be stopped at all costs.

"In order to accomplish this, I am to be pictured as using sinister methods."

THE DA SAID he would ask Foreman Albert V. LaBiche to call Kohn before the grand jury so that he can present his charges there.

"If what he says is true, then it is his duty to appear before the grand jury."

Noting the MCC call for a blue ribbon committee to appoint a team of three investigators, Garrison said:

"It happens that we already have machinery for inquiring into wrongdoing on the part of public officials. This organization is made up of citizens without any political commit-

ments of any kind and it is known as the grand jury."

Terming Kohn the "unelected, self-designated watchdog of the community," the DA concluded:

"Actually, I really feel sorry for Mr. Kohn. The watchdog of the community has been sniffing at so many bad fire hydrants that his nose has finally gone bad on him."



**WILLIAM H. GURVICH**, right, private detective who formerly was associated with District Attorney Jim Garrison's probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, is temporarily barred from entering the DA's office by **LOUIS IVON**, an investigator on the staff. —States-Item photo.