

Two Juries Quiz DA-Plot Probe Figures

The grand jury recessed for lunch immediately after she left the room.

GILL, her attorney, said she was subpoenaed because she had "talked to Jim Garrison" and was once married to Gordon Novel. He would comment no further on her appearance and she said nothing.

Gurvich was asked why he thought he had been subpoenaed to appear before the jury.

"One thing that comes to mind is that they are possibly interested in knowing the truth about certain events," said Gurvich.

"THE OTHER is that I did represent Mr. Garrison when I visited Houma with Mr. James L. Alcock to investigate the alleged bunker robbery."

"Mr. Alcock and I left Houma with little more information than we had when we came.

"If Mr. Garrison is at all involved in having this grand jury investigate the bunker burglary then I would suspect his motive would be to relieve himself of the responsibility of prosecuting Arcacha and Novel, for the conspiracy to commit burglary, which he alone alleges occurred in Orleans Parish."

GURVICH SAID that Garrison "filed these charges in New Orleans knowing full well that no such conspiracy occurred in Orleans Parish — and he was so advised by Mr. Alcock and me.

"If Mr. Garrison would like to see the accused prosecuted in Houma for the greater of the two offenses, then perhaps he should have turned Clay Shaw and all of the evidence over to the Dallas authorities for prosecution of the greater of two crimes

Gurvich differentiated the two crimes as "one, the actual murder of the President, which could carry capital punishment in Texas, or two, conspiring to murder the President, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in Louisiana." *END*

SENDS FOR TRANSCRIPT

N.O. Bar Will Study O'Hara's Testimony

The New Orleans Bar Association today asked a Chicago federal court for transcripts of a hearing in which a Criminal Court judge said he was the frequent traveling companion and "messenger boy" of a New Orleans builder convicted along with Teamster union boss James A. Hoffa of conspiracy and fraud.

Charles J. McCabe, president of the association, said the bar asked for the transcript and was looking into the testimony of Criminal Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara, who told a hearing on a Hoffa motion for a new trial that he had been the expense-paid traveling companion and messenger boy of New Orleans builder Zachary A. "Red" Strate.

Strate was convicted along with Hoffa in 1964.

The hearing was looking into charges by Hoffa's attorneys that federal agents used illegal means of obtaining evidence against him.

M'GABE said there was a meeting of the association Wednesday at which clippings of news stories concerning O'Hara's testimony were

studied. He said the group had requested transcripts of the judge's testimony from the Chicago court before taking further action.

"In order to take further action," McCabe said, "we would have to have a transcript of the testimony given."

The attorney said the group had called on the Chicago Bar Association for help and that the court reporter was forwarding the transcript.

"As soon as we get the transcript we will meet again," he said.

Yesterday, the Metropolitan Crime Commission also asked for a transcript of the testimony.

MCC managing director Aaron Kohn, said the commission would study the testimony to see whether it may have been in violation of the law or of the judicial code of ethics.

IN THE HEARING O'Hara testified he attempted to get Baton Rouge Teamster business agent Edward Grady Partin to sign an affidavit refuting his (Partin's) testimony in the trial. Partin was the key witness in sending the teamster boss to jail.

O'Hara also said he arranged a meeting between Walter Sheridan, a television network news investigator under indictment in New Orleans for public bribery, and Strate. According to O'Hara, Sheridan was to give Strate evidence to substantiate the wiretapping charge in exchange for information discrediting Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of the Kennedy assassination. *ED*

8-29-67

Court to Study Sheridan Claim Of DA Revenge

3-24

A pre-trial conference has been scheduled Monday by U. S. District Judge Alvin Rubin to determine whether Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison should be stopped from what two television newsmen call harassment of them because of their criticism of the DA's Kennedy assassination probe.

The federal judge ruled yesterday that allegations by Walter Sheridan, an investigative reporter for the National Broadcasting Co., and Richard Townley of NBC's local affiliate, WDSU-TV, were sufficient to require a hearing.

AT THE SAME time, the judge also ruled that Sheridan does not have to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury. Sheridan has been accused by

Garrison of public bribery of his assassination probe witnesses in an attempt to get them to change testimony. Townley faces the same charge plus one of intimidation of a state witness.

However, Garrison won one round of the court bout. The judge ruled against the newsmen on their request that the DA be enjoined from prosecuting them on the public bribery and intimidation charges.

Sheridan and Townley filed suit in federal court after failing to get relief in local court from what they term harassment by Garrison stemming from their televised criticism of his probe.

IN RULING THAT Sheridan does not have to appear before the grand jury (the newsmen since his arrest, has been fighting against appearing), the judge held that he would be forced to match legal wits with the district attorney without benefit of an attorney.

"Charged as a criminal, he will sit before a grand jury, forced to undergo interrogation outside the presence of his lawyer, required to decide at his peril and without the bene-

fit of counsel present at the time whether any particular question relates to public bribery or does not . . . and, if it does not, whether his answer may incriminate him in any way," the judge wrote in his 33-page decision.

SHERIDAN, THE judge ruled, would be left "naked to those whom he conceives to be his enemies" without his attorney present.

Regarding the denied injunction against prosecution of Sheridan and Townley, the court held that adequate procedures are available in state courts for their protection.

Judge Rubin cited state procedures providing for preliminary examinations in criminal cases through which the state court can decide whether there is probable cause for prosecution.

"This, then, under all the circumstances, is not a case in which 'irreparable injury, clear and imminent, is threatened,'" he concluded. *F-110*

LEFT WHEN HOFFA NAME MENTIONED

Ex-McKeithen Aide Admits Setting Up Partin Talks

A former aide to Gov. John J. McKeithen today said he arranged a meeting between Baton Rouge Teamsters Union boss Edward Grady Partin and a public relations man who brought up the name of James R. Hoffa.

But the one-time gubernatorial security officer, Aubrey Young, said he had no knowledge of the purpose of the meeting and did not sit through it.

When the public relations man "started to discuss Mr. Hoffa with Mr. Partin," Young said in a statement issued at Baton Rouge today, "I left the meeting."

"I AM SURE the FBI, with whom I have cooperated, knows all of the above is true," he added.

Young issued his statement after Life magazine published an article which said that Partin, whose testimony

helped put National Teamster Boss Hoffa into prison, turned down a bribe of \$1 million to recant his testimony.

The offer of a \$1 million bribe to Partin was made through "friends of Hoffa" and the Cosa Nostra—the na-

tional crime syndicate — the magazine declared.

PARTIN WAS a government witness against Hoffa in a 1964 Chattanooga, Tenn., trial when the Teamsters chief was convicted of conspiring to tamper with a federal jury. Hoffa is serving an eight-year prison term.

The Life magazine article said \$2 million was made available to the Cosa Nostra mobsters "to be payable to anyone who could wreck the government's jury-tampering case on which Hoffa had been convicted."

It said Partin was first contacted by the public relations man and that the meeting was arranged by Young.

YOUNG ADMITTED that the meeting took place at his home on the State Police Headquarters grounds at Baton Rouge. But Young said he did not know what was to be discussed and left the room when Hoffa's name was mentioned.

"I have never had and do not now have any connections directly or indirectly with any persons in the underworld or alleged to be in the underworld," he asserted.

Young said the man who was described as a public relations man by Life was "known to me as a contractor."

Young said he told McKeithen about the January meeting after he left the governor's employ. The statement contradicted the Life report, which said Young resigned after McKeithen learned of the meeting arrangement.

McKeithen refused to be questioned about the Life magazine story. In a prepared statement, the governor said Young's actions "became such that, upon learning of same, I felt he could no longer continue in state service."

"I gather from reading Life there is no suggestion that he has violated the

laws," McKeithen said.

Recalling his offer of a position to Young, the governor said:

"He was one of the very few men I had ever known who read his Bible every night and prayed unashamedly to his Lord for strength to fight that weakness with which thousands of well-intentioned Americans are afflicted.

"I am speaking, of course, of alcoholism, which Mr. Young's previous record indicated he had overcome. When he accepted his posi-

tion with me, I admonished him that his actions and companions must be circumspect and for almost three years all information indicated this was true." F.V.D.

MCC 'Concerned'

Stallion
8-25-67

Seek Copy Of O'Hara Testimony

By ROSEMARY JAMES

The Metropolitan Crime Commission has requested a transcript of the testimony involving Criminal District Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara given at a Chicago hearing this week on an appeal for a new trial of Teamster Union president James R. Hoffa, who is in prison.

During the hearing Judge O'Hara testified that he had been the expense-paid traveling companion of New Orleans builder Zachary A. "Red" Strate, who was convicted along with Hoffa in 1964 on charges of conspiracy and fraud.

Judge O'Hara also testified that he had acted as a messenger in an attempt to get Baton Rouge Teamster official Edward Grady Partin, whose testimony was instrumental in convicting Hoffa in his earlier jury-tampering trial at Chattanooga, to sign an affidavit of "confessed wiretapping."

TODAY, Aaron Kohn, managing director of the crime commission, said that he has requested the transcript so that the commission can

"study it and evaluate the New Orleans implications."

Kohn said, "We are very concerned with the real meaning behind the testimony . . . as it affects New Orleans Criminal District Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara.

"We are particularly concerned with the role O'Hara apparently played on behalf of Hoffa and whether it may have been in violation of the law or of the judicial code of ethics."

ASKED WHETHER the New Orleans Bar Association is considering any action in the matter of the O'Hara testimony, President Charles J. McCabe said:

"You must understand that any action being considered by our association necessarily must remain secret until we are ready to take the action.

"However, I would not like to convey the impression that our association has failed to take notice of the printed reports about the Chicago hearing."

Hoffa's attorneys were seeking a new trial, charging that their client was convicted on evidence that was illegally obtained through wiretapping.

DURING the hearing last week, Judge O'Hara testified that he had taken an affidavit to Partin, asking him to sign it, but he would not say whose "messenger" he was.

He was asked if he owed

Robert F. Kennedy, during the Hoffa investigations and now an investigative reporter for the National Broadcasting Co. Strate said that Sheridan offered to help him in Chicago if Strate would help him to discredit Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of the Kennedy assassination. Sheridan called the Strate testimony an absolute falsehood.

The hearing ended with Federal Judge Richard B. Austin denying the motion for a new trial.

In the headlines with O'Hara were Edward M. Baldwin, a New Orleans attorney, and Pershing O. Gervais, former aide to Garrison. Both were subpoenaed, but the Chicago hearing ended without them being called to testify.

O'Hara, who today is in the process of impaneling a new Orleans Parish Grand Jury, would not comment on the Chicago hearing. **END**

Strate \$30,000 and if he had ever been paid any money by the Teamsters. There were objections to both questions and they were sustained by presiding Judge Richard B. Austin.

Strate testified that O'Hara had set up a meeting between Strate and Walter Sheridan, an aide to former Atty. Gen.