



10-3-67
Garrison's probe

The Judge O'Hara Case

METROPOLITAN CRIME COMM.
ON ORGANIZED CRIME

ORLEANS GRAND JURY AND
THE METROPOLITAN CRIME COMM.

Gov. McKEITHEN'S
RACKETS PROBE

GARRISON
INVESTIGATION

JUSTICE

R. W. Johnson

By PATRICIA GORMIN
Dr. Juan S. Valmaggia, Argentine newspaper editor who will receive the 1966 Theodore Brent Inter - American Award presented by International House, said his country places little stock in District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of the death of President John F. Kennedy.

In a press conference, Dr. Valmaggia said the probe is regarded in his country as "adventure novel . . . fiction."

On other matters, he said his country will be seriously affected by congressional cutback of

appropriations for the Alliance for Progress.

THE COUNTRY will not be able to finance construction of highways and maintenance of electrical plants, he said.

He said the press in Argentina enjoys complete freedom from governmental interference. He is director of "La Nacion," a leading newspaper in Buenos Aires, the one non - English paper not closed down under the dictatorship of Peron.

Some 150 newspapers were forced to close under the dictatorship, and those still in print were limited to six pages and their daily circulation was cut 40 per cent, he said.

HE SAID there is divided sentiment in Argentina about American involvement in the Vietnam war. He said the press reports all U.S. reactions and statements about the war.

Dr. Valmaggia was chosen to receive the Brent award for his outstanding service toward bet-

ter social, educational, cultural, political and economic understanding and cooperation between the nations of the Western Hemisphere.

Dr. Valmaggia has also been active in the Pan - American Press Seminar programs of International House.

The award will be presented at a dinner at IH at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

Governor To Appear Before Jury

10-4-67

District Attorney Jim Garrison's office today issued a subpoena for Marshall Brown, Democratic National Committeeman for Louisiana, to appear tomorrow at 11 a.m. before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, which is investigating allegations of organized crime in the parish.

East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney Sargent Pitcher told the States-Item today from Chicago he has met with "tremendous success and accomplishments" on his trip to gather information about organized crime.

The DA said he could not reveal at this time what he has learned, but promised that it would be made public at the proper time.

Pitcher was accompanied to Chicago by Aubrey Young, the former aide to Gov. John J. McKeithen whose testimony in the East Baton Rouge grand jury's organized crime probe has already led to one indictment.

PITCHER SAID he had not yet talked to Gordon Novel in Columbus, Ohio. One purpose of the DA's trip north was to see Novel.

Novel told The States-Item from Columbus he will come to Baton Rouge to testify if he is assured he will not have to return to New Orleans, where he is wanted in connection with DA Jim Garrison's probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Meanwhile, in Baton Rouge, an aide to Gov. McKeithen was served this afternoon with a subpoena for the governor to appear at 2 p.m. tomorrow before the Orleans Parish grand jury in its separate organized crime probe.

The governor had previously said he would appear, with

or without the subpoena.

BARNEY KILBRIDE, chief deputy criminal sheriff of Orleans Parish, served the subpoena on William V. Redmann, executive counsel to the governor, at 12:40 p.m.

McKeithen was attending the Washington Parish Fair in Franklinton at the time. Redmann said the governor would waive his immunity and appear, adding that he would have appeared on invitation without the subpoena.

An aide said the governor

would have no comment on how he felt about being subpoenaed.

Garrison first "invited" the governor to appear, then later issued a subpoena for the governor's appearance tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Garrison, when asked today why he changed his invitation to a subpoena for the governor, said, "Originally, I was following protocol, and then I decided this is no time for protocol.

"We want to find out what these allegations of organized crime are all about and, so far, nobody seems to know except what they read in Life Magazine.

"We are going to call everybody we think can shed some light on this thing . . . If we have to we'll call the ambassador to the United Nations."

Novel said he sent Pitcher a wire today from Columbus. Pitcher had said he was going to Columbus and ask Novel about his claim to have information about organized crime. He had intended to go on to Ohio from Chicago.

The telegram said:

"Dear Sir: Upon consulting with my noted attorney, Mr. Jerry Weiner of Columbus, Ohio, pertaining to your recent statements relative to my 'putting up or shutting up', I hereby formally offer to come to Baton Rouge, La., immediately to testify about matters relative to my recent press statement and your belated investigations and will furnish facts, figures, documents, plans, recordings, etc., about these matters providing I can be granted complete immunity within the entire state of Louisiana, including any and all parishes where I

am currently being fraudulently prosecuted for such time as is necessary to render the data and testimony before your grand jury and am permitted to return at my free will to the state of Ohio without any further persecution, false prosecution and political harassment.

"Please forward Mr. Weiner the necessary immunity documents or shut up. Sincerely, Gordon Novel."

PITCHER SAID yesterday he was going to get Novel to "put up or shut up" about his organized crime charges. Garrison has been trying, unsuccessfully for some time to extradite Novel from Ohio to testify in his Kennedy probe. He faces Orleans Parish charges of conspiring to commit burglary.

Pitcher said today he still plans to contact Novel.

The East Baton Rouge Parish grand jury, which like its Orleans counterpart is conducting an organized crime probe, met today and was expected to recess until Pitcher returns, probably tomorrow or

Friday. Telephone company officials were expected to bring records today in connection with testimony by Young.

"All I have to say is that the trip to Chicago has been marked with tremendous success and accomplishments," Pitcher said. "The details and significance of our findings will be revealed later when the time is appropriate."

HE SAID FLATLY, "When it comes out, it will be real good."

Pitcher said that the information he is collecting in Chicago will involve many more people in the investigation but he is unable to disclose who and how many at this time.

Chicago is where a federal court hearing was held on a bid to win a new trial for International Teamster Boss

James Hoffa. The Hoffa freedom bid is a cornerstone of the jury investigation.

Young allegedly was offered \$25,000 to arrange a meeting between D'Alton Smith, former New Orleans contractor, and Baton Rouge Teamster Boss Edward Partin. The meeting, according to Partin, was to get the local Teamster boss to change his

testimony which was instrumental in sending Hoffa to federal prison.

Smith was indicted by the parish grand jury on a charge of public bribery.

Sheriff Bryan Clemmons of East Baton Rouge Parish said that a man identifying himself as D'Alton Smith, fitting the description of the wanted man, has appeared at the sheriff's office in Denton, Tex., and posted a \$1,500 fugitive bond.

He said there was some confusion about the Smith in Texas because the Los Angeles police department had advised him that attorneys there had planned to bring the wanted man into the Los Angeles station to surrender. This was yesterday and no further word has been heard from California since.

SMITH HAD business and political connections in both Louisiana and California. The Denton, Tex., surrender came as a surprise.

Clemmons said that even though the sheriff's office there failed to establish identification through fingerprints or photographs, his office is proceeding on the assumption that Smith has surrendered in Texas.

He said the next step in the return of Smith to Louisiana will be up to Pitcher. He said that proceedings would have to be filed in Texas for a hearing to have Smith returned. No mention of extradition has been made, Clemmons said.

WHILE SMITH is involved in the affair over Hoffa, the grand jury in East Baton Rouge also is investigating influence New Orleans rackets figure Carlos Marcello may have had in telephone conversations between him and Young.

Pitcher said that in discussions he has had with Young there has been no development establishing a link between Marcello's calls and the Partin affair.

He said that he is investigating two cases—one, organized crime in East Baton Rouge Parish, and two, the charge of bribery.

"We are working on both," Pitcher said. "I can't tell

whether they have any linking or not at this time."

PITCHER SAID that in addition to Young he is accompanied by his first assistant district attorney, Walter Krousel, and by grand jury foreman Richard Goldberger.

The federal court hearing on the Hoffa case also brought Orleans Criminal District Judge Malcolm O'Hara into the case. O'Hara testified that he was the companion of Zachary Strate, a convicted felon, who paid his expenses.

That aspect of the case is being probed by a federal grand jury in New Orleans.

Life Magazine first disclosed the connection between Young and Smith and between Young and Marcello. Young was dismissed from the governor's staff and has since become a star witness before the grand jury.

GOV. M'KEITHEN said yesterday that he had urged Pitcher, through his wife, to contact Novel for evidence to back up his assertions about criminal influence in the state.

McKeithen said he talked with Pitcher's wife, an assistant district attorney, and told her that "it was imperative that we exhaust every effort to get the testimony of Novel." *SMC*

Shaw Friend's 10-4-67 Assault Trial St. Begins Here

A friend of accused assassination conspiracy figure Clay L. Shaw went to trial here today on a charge of assaulting a television cameraman March 1.

The defendant, 45-year-old Owen Wright, Apt. 10, 4919 Canal, was charged with simple battery after WVUE-TV newsman Erby Aucoin accused Wright of assaulting him the night Shaw was arrested by District Attorney Jim Garrison.

After testimony by Aucoin and another newsman, Criminal Court Judge Bernard J. Baggett took under advisement a motion for a directed verdict filed by the defense.

NEWSMAN PHIL Johnson of WWL-TV testified that Wright struck Aucoin after he told Aucoin not to take any pictures of him.

Aucoin said that he was sent by his news director to 1313 Dauphine, the residence of Shaw, because it was expected that investigators from the DA's office were going to show up and seize evidence under warrant.

Aucoin testified that a car drove up and stopped, blocking the street, and that the defendant got out and approached a group of newsmen and asked where Shaw was. He said that the man's back was facing him and as soon as Wright turned around he began shooting pictures of the defendant. "He asked me if I was taking his picture," Aucoin said. "And then he struck me on my shoulder. I tore my shirt." Aucoin said that Wright did not tell him not to take his picture. He said that Wright had not given him permission to take his picture, however.

WRIGHT ALSO testified that he told Aucoin not to take his photograph.

Defense attorney Walter Kelly argued that the defendant had a right to protect a forceable invasion of his privacy. The state was given time in which to file opposition to the directed verdict.
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