

DA Creates Team to Fight Mob Crime

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District Attorney Jim Garrison has set up a special team to handle cases concerning organized crime in New Orleans and has ordered it to take an "aggressive approach."

The three-man team, Garrison said in a statement and memorandum released yesterday, will have "full-time capability," which he said means its members "can increase their time on this subject to 100 per cent, when and if we reach the point that this much evidence is coming in from the police department and from our own leads."

Garrison's moves came a day after the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Crime and Delinquency said that organized crime was trying to gain control over the city's tourist industry.

HEADED by attorney Ivor A. Trapolin, the committee also said that elements of organized crime are also trying to gain political power here.

Garrison appointed assistant district attorneys Andrew Sciambra and William Alford to the team; he also said an experienced investigator will be assigned to the team. Executive assistant district attorney James Alcock was appointed to organize the team and coordinate its activities.

IN HIS statement Garrison explained that he does not hold to the view that there is no organized crime in New

Orleans. He said he does not believe that organized crime is "flourishing" in the city and said that statements that organized crime is thriving are "exaggerated."

"While all available evidence has indicated to us that organized crime is not flourishing," Garrison said, "it is exceedingly likely that it exists in some degree in every major city." Garrison said he has never maintained that organized crime does not exist at all in New Orleans.

Garrison told Alcock in directing him to set up the team that the investigators "should take the most positive approach possible and check out every avenue."

THE district attorney also instructed Alcock to work closely with the police department and to see if federal funds are available "for increasing the machinery both at the basic level of the police department as well as the level of our office."

"As far as our operation is concerned, however," Garrison told Alcock, "you are not to let the shortage of personnel interfere with the importance of our being set up to process any cases relative to organized crime as they come in."