

New Quarters Are Assigned To Grand Jury

No. S-I

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The Orleans Parish Grand Jury moved today to more secluded quarters, apparently because of the complications arising from Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe.

The jury will meet Wednesday in its new room, located two floors above the old one, adjacent to Section B on the cramped third floor of the Criminal Courts Building.

The third-floor room was used by the grand jury for many years until Fire Marshal Milton J. Stire ruled it unsafe. It was turned into an office for assistant Dist. Atty. Julian Murray, assigned to Section B.

STIRE ORDERED the move because, he said, the use of the room by 12 jurors plus a continual flow of witnesses would require an additional fire escape. The attic-like third floor may be reached by a narrow stairwell, with one fire escape on the outside of the building.

In addition, there is a locked elevator which runs from the basement of the building directly to the jury room, passing through Garrison's private office on the second floor.

Deputies in charge of the moving operation this morning could not say why the move had come about or whether the fire regulations had been complied with.

SINCE GARRISON took his investigation to the grand jury, newsmen have camped outside the jury room every Wednesday, hoping to question the district attorney or some of his witnesses.

The narrow corridor outside the room is normally crowded anyway, because of an adjacent coffee stand.

If the jury continues to meet on the third floor, Garrison and his witnesses, as well as the members of the jury, could conceivably avoid photographers altogether by using the private elevator.