

GARRISON GIVES RULING ON FLAG

T.P.
5/16/64
Display on Car Called
Not Illegal

District Attorney Jim Garrison has written an official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) he does not consider it illegal to display a Confederate flag as a plate on an automobile.

Arthur J. Chapital Sr., urban program director of the NAACP, recently questioned whether, under Article 116 of the Louisiana Criminal Code, display of the Confederate flag on automobiles is desecrating that flag.

Garrison replied, "In my considered judgment, it would not be possible to obtain a lasting criminal conviction of any individual displaying the Confederate flag as a plate on his automobile."

In his open letter to Garrison, Chapital was critical of the Louisiana Criminal Code, which he said ranks the Confederate States of America flag along with flags of the United States of America and the State of Louisiana.

"Ironically, according to Louisiana law, the Confederate flag, symbol of the South's defiance during the Civil War, is protected and respected on equal terms with the flag of the United States," noted Chapital. "Thus, it raises the grave question, can we serve two masters sincerely and with justice?"