

Gremillion Launches O'Hara Probe

Attorney General Jack Gremillion announced today he has begun a "thorough study and investigation" of charges which led the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission to seek the ouster of Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara.

Gremillion said his investigation is being made at the request of the New Orleans Bar Association.

He said his office is awaiting a promised petition from the MCC which has called for the removal of Judge O'Hara from office.

"THIS IS AN important matter which must require thorough study and investigation," the attorney general said today.

Judge O'Hara's testimony last month at Chicago in a new-trial hearing for convicted Teamsters Union boss James Hoffa sparked the controversy over his fitness to hold office.

The judge told a Chicago federal court he was the expense-paid traveling companion of New Orleans builder Zachary A. Strate and served as a "messenger" in attempts to procure evidence in Hoffa's behalf.

Strate was convicted with Hoffa in 1964 of fraud and conspiracy charges growing out of what the government contended was the misuse of Teamsters Union funds.

THE CRIME commission confirmed yesterday that it

plans to follow statutory procedure by filing a 25-name petition initiating a suit seeking Judge O'Hara's removal.

Such a suit requires an investigation by the attorney

general's office which, at its conclusion, will file the findings with the Louisiana State Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court will review the evidence and decide

whether the office holder should be removed from his job.

Gremillion said the investigation will consume "considerable time and effort."