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Court Studies Petition for O'Hara Ouster

The Louisiana Supreme Court is considering a petition calling for Criminal District Court

Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara's removal from office.

The petition, signed by the New Orleans Bar Association, the Chamber of Commerce of the New Orleans Area, Gov. John J. McKeithen and 45 citizens, was delivered to the high court yesterday by Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion and two assistants, William P. Schuler and John E. Jackson Jr.

THE SUIT against Judge O'Hara, who is on an indefi-

nite leave of absence, charges that he conspired with Zachary A. Strate Jr., a New Orleans builder and convicted felon, to have set aside the federal court convictions of Strate and Teamster Union President James R. Hoffa. Strate was found guilty of six counts of mail fraud and one of conspiracy.

The suit alleges that early in 1967 O'Hara arranged a meeting in Baton Rouge with James H. Gill and Edward G. Partin, a Teamster official, in an effort to get Partin to alter his testimony which was instrumental in convicting Hoffa of jury tampering.

An affidavit presented to Partin to sign, the suit charges, was dictated to Julian Levy, the judge's court reporter, just before the day of the alleged meeting.

AFTER the judge is served with the proceeding, he will have 15 days to plead. When any pleadings are considered, the court will decide whether to hear the case itself or appoint a commissioner which will gather evidence in a regular trial and will put together a record. However, the commissioner would not make any suggestions or conclusions as to the disposal of the case, which would then go to the court for argument and submission.

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