

Court to Renew Chandler Case

Special 3-Judge Federal Body Decides

A special three-judge federal court decided Wednesday to reopen the case of David L. Chandler, the newsman who is fighting appearance before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

The court composed of Judge Robert A. Ainsworth Jr., of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and District Judges Edward J. Boyle Sr., and James A. Comiskey made their decision after hearing arguments on the motion to reopen the matter earlier in the day.

The court also ordered a pre-trial conference set for Monday at 4 p. m., before Judge Comiskey. No date has been set for the taking of additional testimony.

At Wednesday's hearing Ci-

cero C. Sessions, Chandler's attorney, charged that after the case was heard on Nov. 8, District Attorney Jim Garrison "in effect called Mr. Chandler a liar and called me, in effect, a liar."

The attorney added, "I take it very seriously when the district attorney of my city calls me a liar while a case of mine is pending in court."

Garrison has subpoenaed Chandler to appear before the jury in connection with allegations made in Life Magazine that organized crime is rampant in New Orleans.

The reporter for Life contends that the DA is trying to trap him into committing perjury before the jury.

Sessions took exception to a statement by First Assistant DA Charles R. Ward that Chandler changed his story about an in-

terview by Ward last Jan. 26.

Introduced into the record by Sessions was an affidavit by Chandler alleging that Garrison told Chandler that Carlos Marcello offered him a \$52,000 bribe to present a test slot machine case and have them ruled as legal.

During the hearing Judge Ainsworth asked James Alcock, an assistant district attorney, if it would not be hard for Garrison to question Chandler about an alleged bribe of Garrison himself.

Alcock asked that the court refuse to reopen the case and contended that Sessions has not presented any new evidence to warrant such action.

Judge Ainsworth expressed the opinion that the question for the court to decide is whether or not Chandler's constitutional rights will be

jeopardized if he is forced to appear before the grand jury without counsel.

The judge commented "What concerns us is whether the focus of the investigation is on Chandler, and if so, whether he would be deprived of his constitutional rights by appearing before the grand jury."