

5-1 11/27/67

Ward Admits Animosity Held For Chandler

The chief assistant to District Attorney Jim Garrison, today testified that he does hold personal animosity toward Life Magazine reporter David L. Chandler, who is seeking to avoid testifying before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Assistant DA Charles Ray Ward said his animosity would not affect Chandler, however, because he (Ward) would not participate in the grand jury hearing.

THE JURY WANTS to question Chandler in connection with its probe of claims that organized crime is flourishing in New Orleans. It was a series of articles in Life that raised the matter, and Chandler gathered some of the information in them.

Chandler has sought to avoid testifying on grounds that the DA's office has it in for him and seeks to trap him into perjuring himself. Garrison has denied this.

Testimony in Chandler's court fight to avoid testifying before the jury resumed this morning before a three-judge federal panel consisting of Circuit Judge Robert S. Ainsworth and District Judges Edward J. Boyle and James A. Comiskey.

Garrison was scheduled to be the first witness but was not on hand at the opening of court. At Judge Ainsworth's suggestion, Ward took the stand first. Garrison ar-

See CHANDLER— Page 6

Chandler--

Continued from Page 1

rived later and subsequently took the stand.

WARD SAID HE held personal animosity toward Chandler because he "lied and impugned my honesty." He said Chandler telephoned him, using obscene language, and said "When Mr. Sessions gets through with you, there'll be nothing left." Cicero Sessions is Chandler's attorney.

Ward said that in order to be impartial, he had a case involving a shoplifting charge against Chandler's wife transferred to Municipal Court, which is not in the DA's jurisdiction. He said he did this because the amount involved was less than \$2.50.

When Garrison took the stand, he was cross-examined by Sessions on the question of an alleged \$52,000 bribe offered to him by rackets figure Carlos Marcello.

CHANDLER HAS testified that he could have told the grand jury "from personal knowledge" that such a bribe offer was made.

Garrison today again denied there was such a bribe offer. "I've never had any bribe offer and I never told anyone I did," he said.

"It's no secret that a bribe offer was reported to have been made," he added. He said the source of the report was Pershing Gervais, one of his former aides. He said Gervais later told him the report was not true.

Two States-Item reporters testified after Garrison left the stand. Rosemary James identified a news story concerning the bribe offer and an affidavit attesting to its accuracy.

REPORTER JOHN McMillan testified regarding an incident in which he asked Ward to join him, Chandler, Sessions and others for a drink.

Ward testified previously he had declined the offer because he felt it improper to be in company with someone involved in "criminal litigation."