

DA to Ask Probe of Kohn

District Attorney Jim Garrison will take a dispute between Aaron M. Kohn and City Councilman Eddie L. Sapir to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Kohn, managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, has charged that Sapir has had "continuous contact" with rackets figure Carlos Marcello.

Sapir contends that Kohn is a "wicked and malicious liar."

THE COUNCILMAN announced this afternoon that Garrison's office had agreed to a grand jury hearing of the charges after he conferred with Garrison by telephone and with Garrison's top aides at the DA's office this afternoon.

Sapir said he was told that both he and Kohn "would be given an opportunity to be heard by a grand jury, which I welcome."

"After we have been heard I'm confident that Mr. Kohn will be proven once again to be a wicked, malicious and irresponsible liar," Sapir said.

SAPIR SAID HE talked to Charles Ward and James L. Alcock in person and conferred with Garrison by phone during the conference.

Sapir brought with him transcripts of last Thursday's City Council meeting, in which the executive secretary of the Metropolitan Crime Commission questioned what he described as "continuous contact" between the councilman and Marcello.

SAPIR WAS MET in the DA's outer office by Asst. Dist. Atty. James Alcock and led down a corridor toward Garrison's office.

Kohn and the Crime Commission has asked for a City Council hearing into the charges of connections between Sapir and Marcello.

Sapir said he would show the district attorney what Kohn has alleged and "ask him if he wants to bring Mr. Kohn in and let him testify under oath before the grand jury."

Specifically, said Sapir, he wants Kohn to testify on two points:

1. That the councilman's interest in a bingo ordinance pending before the City Council

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cil is not in the interest of the public but in the interest of "the Marcello family. I want him to prove that."

2. "Next, he said I have continuous contact. I want him to prove that, too.

"I invited the City Council to investigate it and I'm asking the grand jury to investigate it."

"If he has something to show, then I want him to show it," he said.

The clash between Kohn and Sapir resulted from Kohn's appearance at the City Council meeting last Thursday.

AT THE TIME, the council was considering an ordinance offered by Councilman James A. Moreau that would allow charitable bingo. The Legislature approved a bill in its recent session that would allow Orleans Parish to legalize this type of bingo provided the City Council approves it.