

STARR 7/20/67

Sheridan Motion Claims Garrison Out to Get Him

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's office girded today for a courtroom fight to quash a motion by Walter Sheridan, National Broadcasting Co. newsman who seeks to avoid appearing before the grand jury probing the assassination of President Kennedy.

Sheridan's attorneys filed a motion in criminal district court here yesterday, charging that Garrison "is subverting the historical purpose" of the Orleans Parish grand jury.

The motion, said that as a result of Sheridan's activities, Garrison expressed a desire to "get" him. Garrison, the document said, once ordered a former aide to arrest, handcuff and beat Sheridan.

Sheridan was served with a subpoena to testify before the grand jury Tuesday as he posted a \$5,000 bond on a charge of trying to bribe Perry Raymond Russo, a key Garrison witness, but will not have to appear until the issue is decided in court.

12-Page Motion

The 12-page motion requested that Sheridan's subpoena be quashed, that the grand jury foreman state in open court the crime about which Sheridan is subpoenaed to testify, and that a hearing be held to determine

whether the current grand jury is legally constituted.

It also asked that a hearing be held to determine whether Garrison and his assistants should be excused from advising the grand jury on any matters involving Sheridan.

Sheridan's motion said that since Garrison became district attorney in 1962 he has used his legal adviser role to "procure spurious and specious indictments against his political enemies."

The motion said Sheridan had developed evidence showing "misconduct, intimidation and bribery" by the district attorney's office in the case against Clay L. Shaw, 54-year-old retired businessman, charged with conspiring to murder President Kennedy.

Cites Burglar Role

Sheridan claimed that a convicted burglar, Miguel Torres, was asked by Garrison's office last January to identify Shaw as Clay Bertrand, a mysterious figure who reportedly sought legal counsel for Lee Harvey Oswald after the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Asst. Dist. Atty. James L. Alcock said there is "no legal ground" for Sheridan's motion and the district attorney's office will oppose it in court.