

51
467
67

MCC Again Asks DA Probe by Gremillion

A second request that Louisiana Attorney General Jack Gremillion investigate the actions of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison in connection with his probe of the Kennedy assassination was made today by the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans Inc.

Commission president E. C. Upton Jr. and managing director Aaron M. Kohn, in a letter to Gremillion, said the commission was not satisfied with Gremillion's written reasons for rejecting its first request.

Gremillion on June 23 wrote the commission that he had "no authority to comply" with the request. He said additionally that he felt the commission had asked him to "supplant or supersede a district attorney."

In today's repeat request, the commission cited state law which it contends gives

the attorney general the right and obligation to investigate charges against a district attorney's office.

The commission said it was basing its request upon a National Broadcasting Co. TV program in which the network alleged that Garrison and members of his staff had induced witnesses in the investigation to give false testimony or withhold pertinent facts "under promise of reward or threat of reprimination."

"At this time," wrote Upton and Kohn, "we again ask that you take steps, in the manner set forth in our letter of June 21, in order that serious charges of crime, publicly alleged before the entire nation, may be resolved in an orderly and reliable manner."

The MCC said Gremillion, in his reply to its first request, gave the impression that a district attorney is immune from investigation and

prosecution by the state attorney general. It further noted that Gremillion had said that Garrison "has not requested assistance" from his office.

The MCC asked Gremillion if Garrison had asked him to prosecute the district attorney in the case in which Garrison was accused of defaming the eight judges of Criminal District Court. Garrison was convicted, but the conviction later was reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Do you expect the people of Louisiana to believe you will not investigate a district attorney accused of crime unless he asked you to do so?" the MCC asked.

MEANWHILE, Garrison failed to show up for a speaking engagement before the American Association of Motor Vehicle Inspectors here today.

Willard E. Robertson, a key official of Truth and Consequences of New Orleans Inc. and chairman of the Louisiana Motor Vehicle Commission, said the DA's way into the luncheon was barred by WDSU-TV reporters and photographers.

He said Garrison had entered the hotel with the intention of addressing the luncheon, but his way was blocked by TV newsmen.

WDSU-TV reporters denied barring the DA's way. They said he stopped to use a phone and went upstairs by elevator when a TV crew trained its cameras on him.

Robertson is one of the leaders of the private group of businessmen who are helping fund the Garrison probe.