

Supreme Court Rejects Appeal of TV Newsman

Sheridan Must Testify in N.O. Probe

The Louisiana Supreme Court ruled Monday that television newsman Walter Sheridan must testify before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Sheridan, with the National Broadcasting Co., is accused by District Attorney Jim Garrison of attempting to bribe Perry Raymond Russo, an important witness in Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe.

Another witness the district attorney's office is interested in questioning, Gordon Novel, has offered to go voluntarily before the Grand Jury provided he first be questioned under the influence of "truth serum," or hypnosis, it was learned Monday.

LETTER SENT

Novel made the offer to return to Louisiana in a letter to Garrison. Novel was reported to be agreeable last week to testifying before the jury provided that bonds on three charges against him be reduced.

Criminal District Court Judge Bernard J. Bagert reduced the bonds and specified that Novel be released on his own recognizance, but Novel had not appeared in the office of the clerk of court to sign the bonds by Monday.

Sheridan appealed to the state's highest court July 27 after a lower court failed to block his Grand Jury subpoena.

Russo's testimony was questioned by Sheridan on an hour-long NBC program which was highly critical of Garrison's investigation.

PLEADS INNOCENT

Sheridan has pleaded innocent of the alleged attempted bribery and is free on \$5,000 bond.

The Supreme Court stated Monday:

"The application is denied.

The showing made is not sufficient to warrant the exercise of our supervisory jurisdiction at this time."

Sheridan's attorneys claim that the subpoena is a harassment against him.

Novel thwarted all attempts to extradite him from Ohio on two charges of theft, one of conspiracy to commit simple burglary, and one of being a material witness.

TEXT GIVEN

The text of his letter follows:

"Now that your requested bonds of \$80,000 have been reduced by law to recognizance and in the sincere interest of justice, I hereby make you my final offer to testify before your New Orleans Grand Jury on all matters pertinent or impertinent to your office and your current investigation into your alleged John F. Kennedy assassination conspiracy and its related prosecutions.

"This proposal is made solely

in view of your past actions and the past actions of your Grand Jury and the number, nature, and strange backgrounds and character of the witnesses for the prosecution in the cases of the State of Louisiana V. Dean Andrews, esquire, and Clay L. Shaw, Richard Townley, Walter Sheridan, myself, et al.

"As I do not legally or otherwise ever have to return to Louisiana due to your ineptness in not sending any legal or factual extradition papers to Ohio for my return in the allotted legal time of three months, and as I am sure you would like the opportunity to vindicate yourself and your office of my to date substantiated charges of fraud, malicious prosecution, and malfeasance of public office, I hereby submit my one and only simple term for

your astute consideration:

"To wit:

"I, Gordon Novel, do hereby offer to voluntarily return to Louisiana to voluntarily testify before your New Orleans Grand Jury on any question relative to your legal or verbal charges against Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw, David Ferrie, Sergio Arcacha Smith, Dean Andrews, Layton Martens, Walter Sheridan, Richard Townley, NBC, the F.B.I., the C.I.A., or myself, with the sole provision that in the interest of your often stated desire for unperjured 'legal scientific objective truth and justice,' I be administered by your Dr. Esmond Fadder (SIC) (with prior clinical isolation and medical supervision) the same truth serum and-or hypnosis given by your office to Mr. Perry Raymond Russo and that while under the influence of those objective, scientific veracity controls and while on your office's polygraph, I give answer to yourself on any and all questions while under oath in the presence of your Grand Jury, and that these tests and their results be made part of the official record.

"Mr. Garrison, it is my most earnest desire to separate this matter of a conspiracy to assassinate John F. Kennedy in the United States of America into either fact or fraud, fiction and fabrication.

"As I intend to take a needed long vacation, you have 72 hours to accept or reject this final offer to testify as your 'most important material witness.' Please notify your answer by wire to any of the attorneys shown below . . ."

RETURNS ORDERED

The Supreme Court Monday acted on another phase of the Garrison investigation when it ordered Judge Bagert and Garrison to file returns to a petition of John Cancler, a convicted burglar who was also on the

television program in which Sheridan appeared.

On the NBC program, Cancler said that representatives of Garrison urged him to break into the home of Clay L. Shaw and plant evidence.

Shaw is accused of conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Cancler later refused to answer questions by the Grand Jury here and was held in contempt by Judge Bagert.

His petition now before the Supreme Court is a review of this contempt conviction.

The high court gives Judge Bagert and the office until Sept. 1 to file their papers.

TWO SUSPENAED

In another development an attorney for Dean A. Andrews Jr. obtained subpoenas for two more defense witnesses for Andrews' perjury trial, scheduled to begin Wednesday in the court of Judge Frank J. Shea.

Attorney Sam Monk Zelden obtained subpoenas for David L. Chandler, 724 Gov. Nicholls, a reporter for Life Magazine, and Sam De Pino, a reporter for WVUE-TV.

The district attorney's office was blocked in an attempt to have former Warren Commission attorney Wesley J. Leibeler returned to New Orleans for the trial.

A district court judge at Brattleboro, Vt., denied a request to have Leibeler returned for the trial after Leibeler said he had personal business conflicting with the trial dates. Leibeler declined to come to New Orleans voluntarily.

Ike was Suggested as Target-- Russo

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—A key witness in the New Orleans presidential plot probe said Monday former President Dwight Eisenhower and former Mexican President Adolfo Lopez Mateos were also suggested as possible death targets by one of the alleged conspirators.

Perry Raymond Russo, star witness in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, said the late David W. Ferrie suggested Eisenhower and Lopez Mateos for assassination.

"You never knew when he was kidding and when he was serious," Russo said of Ferrie.

Russo spoke at a Baton Rouge civic club.

Ferrie, a former airlines pilot, was found dead in his New Orleans apartment soon after the Garrison probe became public.

Russo said Ferrie was the leading conspirator "with the possible exception of one of his friends who claimed to be a CIA agent." Russo did not identify this man.

Russo also said he did not believe Ferrie died a natural death. He suggested Ferrie could have caused his own death by failing to take medicine to counteract high blood pressure.

He said Ferrie also claimed to know of a chemical which would cause blood to clot and which could not be traced during an autopsy.

"He told me about this once," Russo said. "He said he knew a way to commit the perfect murder."