CHARGE FILED AGAINST RUSSO

Previous Count Is Not Accepted by DA

First Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock said Tuesday that he has filed a charge of possession of stolen property against Perry Raymond Russo, 29, one of DA Jim Garrison's main witnesses in the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw.

Alcock said he charged Russo, 5807 Elysian Fields Ave., with possession of a key to a safe deposit box, which, he said, was the only thing he could clearly demonstrate to be part of the property stolen in the Aug. 15 $8,000 burglary of the residence of Allen Fontcuberta, 4760 Overton Dr.

Alcock said he did not accept the actual Fontcuberta burglary charge itself in Russo's case.

Instead, he charged three youths, Ludwig Scherer III, 19, Gilbert Evans, 17, and Bruce Brunet, 18, with committing the burglary.

Police arrested Russo at his home at 11 a.m. on Aug. 22, along with Carl Moore, 20, whose address was said by police to be the same as Russo's.

However, Alcock said that Russo has denied that Moore lived at his residence.

Police also seized a $2,000 motorcycle which was stolen in Jefferson Parish.

Alcock said he charged Moore with possession of the motorcycle, which was the property of Charles Elrod, 1615 Brockenbrough Ct.

Several other articles, including two radios, a tape recorder and a ring were also seized.

However, police have been unable to prove that they were stolen, Alcock said. One victim in the Fontcuberta burglary at first identified the ring as similar to one that was stolen, but later, after being informed of certain inscriptions on the ring, said it could not be the same.

Alcock said the safe deposit box key was valued at $1 after he learned from a bank official that this is what is costs to duplicate such keys.

State law says that when the value of the stolen things possessed amounts to less than $20, the offender can be fined not more than $500 or imprisoned for not more than six months. He may also be fined and jailed for up to the maximum amounts.

The maximum penalty for possessiong stolen property is up to 10 years when the value of the stolen property exceeds $100.