'Truth' Group Has No Qualms On Baring Rolls

By JACK WARDLAW

An official of a group of businessmen backing District Attorney Jim Garrison said today that disclosure of the group's financial records and membership lists will present no problem.

Automobile dealer Willard E. Robertson said the financial figures are no secret and he does not believe any of the group's approximately 50 members will object to having his name made public.

"All of us are proud of Jim Garrison and are still behind him 100 per cent. None of us are backing out," said Robertson.

ROBERTSON SAID the group is now officially named "Truth and Consequences of New Orleans Inc." since the old name of "Truth and Consequences" was preempted by a Garrison foe, attorney Dean A. Andrews Jr.

Yesterday, Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. ordered the group to produce its membership and financial records at a hearing Monday. He acted on a motion by attorneys for Clay L. Shaw, the retired businessman accused of plotting to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Shaw's attorneys wanted the records in time for the 10 a.m. Monday hearing on their motions to quash the indictment charging Shaw with conspiring to kill the President. Judge Haggerty, who is ailing, signed the subpenas at his home yesterday.

Garrison also was ordered to turn over to the court records of rectipts and disbursements of the privately donated funds.

T&C WAS ORGANIZED after Garrison complained that press reports of the public records showing expenditures of his office were hurting his investigation. At that time, it was announced that each member would donate $100 a month.

Robertson said today that since it began in February, T&C has collected a total of $9,418 from its members and Garrison has used $9,032 in

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investigative expenses, leaving a current cash balance of $386.

The donations will continue, said Robertson, so long as Garrison needs them. He denied reports of a rift between himself and Garrison, and said he and the DA just had a 2½-hour conference to discuss renaming the group and other matters.

He quoted Garrison as follows:

"Since Mr. Andrews has seen fit to steal the title of T&C, for obscure purposes of his own, we are changing the title of our organization to Truth, Inc. We are going to leave the consequences to Mr. Andrews."

ROBERTSON EXPLAINED, however, that it was later decided to go with the full title of "Truth and Consequences of New Orleans Inc." in order to avoid confusion.

The old name was taken over by Andrews, who is under indictment for perjury in connection with Garrison's investigation of the alleged Kennedy plot, when he reserved rights to the corporate name with the secretary of state's office.

Robertson said the new name has now been properly registered and T&C has full rights to it. He said the group will legally incorporate under that name.

He said the member who was supposed to reserve the old name was "remiss in his duties" and Andrews was within his rights in taking it over.

ROBERTSON ALSO commented on the action of Steve Plotkin, attorney for Gordon Novel, the fugitive witness in Garrison's probe, in withdrawing Novel's $50 million suit against T&C.

Plotkin said yesterday he would withdraw the suit, and today it was dismissed without prejudice, meaning that it can be refiled.

Robertson said "either the $50 million suit had no basis to begin with, or Mr. Novel was willing to pay a very heavy price to keep from coming back to New Orleans."

Novel had sued Garrison and T&C on the grounds that he was libeled and deprived of his constitutional rights by Garrison as a result of the donations by T&C.

The former New Orleans nightclub owner is fighting extradition from Columbus, Ohio, on a charge of conspiracy to commit burglary. He is also sought as a material witness in the Kennedy probe.

Federal District Judge James A. Comiskey ruled Wednesday that Novel would have to return to New Orleans to testify in order to further the suit.

Officers of T&C named in the subpenas signed by Judge Haggerty yesterday were Robertson, oilman Joseph M. Rault Jr. and businessman Cecil M. Shilstone.