DA Backers Must Bare Files--Court

A group of businessmen financing District Attorney Jim Garrison must produce its membership and financial records by Monday, Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. ruled today.

Judge Haggerty, who is ill, signed subpenas at his home to accomplish the following:

1. Order "Truth and Consequences," the businessmen's group, to deliver records of its membership and disbursements to the court at 10 a. m. Monday.

2. Direct Garrison to turn over records of receipts and disbursements of the privately donated funds.

Garrison and the T&C group won a round on another front, however, when an attorney for Gordon Novel said the fugitive witness will withdraw his suit against them rather than return to New Orleans.

T&C has been providing funds for Garrison to pursue his investigation of the slaying of President John F. Kennedy, which Garrison contends was plotted in New Orleans. Thus far, the names of only a few of its 50 members have been revealed.

SALVATORE PANZECA, ONE OF THE lawyers for Clay L. Shaw, under indictment for criminal conspiracy in the death of the president, appeared at Criminal District Court today with the subpena requests, and subsequently went to Judge Haggerty's home and got them signed.

Shaw's attorneys want the records in time for the Monday hearing at which defense and state lawyers are expected to clash over a motion to quash the 54-year-old New Orleans businessmen's indictment.

Panzeca said the first subpena directs the three officers of T&C——Joseph M. Rault Jr., Willard Robertson and Cecil Shilstone—to produce membership lists and records of donations and money spent.

ON THE NOVEL MATTER, attorney Steven Plotkin said the $50 million suit will be withdrawn. He explained:

"I have been in contact with Gordon Novel concerning this particular question and he has requested his suit be voluntarily withdrawn at this time."

Plotkin's action came after Federal District Judge James A. Comiskey ruled yesterday that Novel would have to return to New Orleans to testify in order to press the suit.

IF HE RETURNED, NOVEL would be subject to arrest on a warrant charging conspiracy to commit burglary in connection with the alleged burglary of a Houma munitions bunker.

Plotkin said Novel reserves the right to refile the suit if he so desires within a year of the alleged offense. The suit had charged that Novel was libeled and deprived of his constitutional rights by Garrison as a result of the funds given by T&C members.

Novel's decision not to return at this time was made

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"from a safety standpoint" as well as to preserve his constitutional rights, Plotkin said.

THE ATTORNEY MAINTAINED THAT for T&C to give funds to Garrison clearly violates the state's public bribery statute which forbids private organizations from giving funds to state agencies except through the state treasurer.

He said there is no doubt Garrison is a state official because "when he goes into court he files his action in the name of the state."

Plotkin said Novel is "willing and ready" to return to testify before the grand jury or any other public body.

"The only thing keping him from returning are the criminal charges against him," said Plotkin.