2 GROUPS TO MEET

S-13/3/69

Consider Action Against Garrison

The Metropolitan Crime Commission and the New Orleans Bar Association are scheduled to discuss possible action against Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison in pending meetings, it was learned today.

The action comes on the heels of a Criminal District Court jury's exoneration of Clay L. Shaw, charged by Garrison with taking part in a conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

The jury deliberated less than an hour before finding Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman, not guilty early Saturday morning.

AARON M. KOHN, managing director of the crime commission, said the organization's executive committee will meet this week to "discuss what the various alternatives are and what the crime commission should do about it."

He said the crime commission had spoken out in the past to the effect "that various crimes had been commit-

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ted by District Attorney Garrison and members of his staff in the course of their assassination probe. It is still unfinished business."

In June of 1967 the MCC sent a letter to Louisiana Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion, asking that he launch an exhaustive investigation into the manner in which the district attorney was conducting the Kennedy assassination probe.

IN AUGUST, 1967, the MCC bought an advertisement in which it stated that the attorney general had both the legal and moral obligation to investigate a series of allegations that the district attorney's office had engaged in various criminal acts.

The Louisiana Constitution makes it possible for the state attorney general to bring suit in court against a district attorney on a variety of grounds dealing with improper use of his office.

Gremillion said today he would have no comment on the Garrison matter.

ASKED IF A petition presented to him to oust the DA from office would be taken to the state supreme court, Gremillion said he knew nothing about the matter.

Howard W. Lenfant, president of the New Orleans Bar Association, said the Garrison matter would be taken up at an executive meeting of the association March 11, but he emphasized that the bar association has no jurisdiction over the district attorney.

Lenfant said Garrison is not a member of the New Orleans Bar Association. "We have no jurisdiction over him whatsoever," he said.

BUT LENFANT added, "I'll take it up through the executive committee. We'll find out if there is anything we could or should do in the interest of the public."

George B. Hall, Alexandria, president of the Louisiana Bar Association, said that organization would have a statement to make later today.

The association was expected to say that any action against the district attorney is spelled out in the constitution and that this is the avenue that must be followed.

HALL DID SAY that the same sort of matter has come before the bar association in the past.

Meanwhile, Asst. Dist. Atty. Clyde Merritt said today that tentative figures show that the cost of the Shaw trial to the taxpayers was $35,000. Merritt also acts as accountant for the office.

He said the figure includes $12,000 for witnesses, housing and food, and $7,900 to pay stenographers and court reporters. Merritt said the state will get a part of the stenography fee back by selling transcripts of the trial.

ORLEANS PARISH Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd said the cost of housing and feeding jurors at the Rowntowner Motor Hotel for the duration of the trial would be between $16,000 and $17,000.

He said there would be another $1,000 for security during the trial—closed circuit television and sound equipment. He said he also hopes to get $3,000 more in order that he may pay deputies overtime for their extra work during the trial.

The list of expenses does not include Garrison's investigative expenses.

AN UNKNOWN amount of money did not come from normal channels generally used to operate the office. It was contributed by a group of businessmen formed under the name of Truth and Consequences.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty previously had ordered the names of contributors and their contributions to be impounded until after the trial.

Meanwhile, Shaw said the two-year legal battle had been "disastrous financially" and he is prepared to come out retirement and go back to work.

"These matters cost a great deal of money," said Shaw of his ordeal. He was acquitted by the jury exactly two years after his arrest.

SHAW SAID among the possibilities is a book on his experiences. He also said the acquittal "is by no means the end of the matter."

Edward Wegmann, one of his attorneys, said, "We will continue to do what is best for Mr. Shaw." Wegmann would not be pinned down on the possibility of a suit by Shaw.

The New Orleans Delegation of the Cuban Student Directorate yesterday called for the impeachment of Garrison "for the prostitution of his office."

THE STATEMENT added that Shaw should receive public and official apologies from the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

Dr. Carlos Bringuier, who issued the CSD statement, said his group was "absolutely sure that the only verdict that could have been rendered was 'not guilty' simply because Clay L. Shaw was innocent and we have faith in the honest people of this nation."

Dr. Bringuier said that during the two-year investigation, Garrison and "his lackies and gurus" have smeared Cuban exiles.

"But our sufferings," he added, "could not be compared to those of an innocent man who was smeared and brought into an open circus . . ."