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ACLU Seeks Probe of DA by Justice Dept.

The American Civil Liberties Union has called upon U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark to initiate an investigation of the New Orleans district attorney's presidential assassination probe to determine whether the DA is misusing the powers of his office.

In a letter sent to the attorney general, Lawrence Speiser, director of the ACLU Washington office, said actions of DA Jim Garrison "indicate a gross misuse of his public office in infringing on constitutional rights.

"District attorneys must, of necessity, have wide discretion in utilizing their offices for law enforcement and prosecution purposes," Speiser continued.

"Nevertheless, it seems apparent that Mr. Garrison is indiscriminately using his power to bring criminal charges in order to intimidate those who disagree with him. Such activities do not appear to be an effort to arrive at the truth, but instead, to silence critics," Speiser continued.

He urged that if an investigation of the district attorney and his associates indicates that there have been violations of the United States Code, the matter be presented to a grand jury for indictments.