

5-12-29-68

DA, Aide Asked \$3,500 to Drop Case--Suspect

A man on trial today in Criminal District Court said Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and Assistant DA James Alcock offered to drop robbery charges against him for \$3,500.

Alcock branded the statement as "ridiculous" and added that if the allegation is made again under oath, the man would be charged with perjury.

JOSEPH "JAKE" LACAZE, 40, 4925 Laine ave., is being tried on charges of robbing Leon Giliberti, 63, of \$20,900 in front of the Hibernia National Bank branch at 4239 Elysian Fields last May 20. Giliberti, an employe of Martin Bros. Restaurant, was preparing to make a deposit when he was robbed by two men.

Lacaze asked Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. for permission to put Garrison and Alcock on the stand in order to "have them repeat what they told me. That they would drop the charges against me for \$3,500."

PRIOR TO HIS TRIAL, Lacaze, appeared in court and presented a motion prepared by himself without the aid of an attorney challenging the district attorney's method of charging him by a bill of information rather than having him indicted by a grand jury as he claims is his privilege.

Judge Haggerty overruled the

motion.

Lacaze then presented a list of persons he said he wanted subpoenaed. They were Garrison, Alcock and a Bob Mirns of the Lucky Coin Machine Co.

The judge ruled that the correct addresses of the persons would have to be supplied before a subpoena would be issued for them.

GARRISON WAS out of his office and unavailable for comment on the matter.

The allegation came when Judge Haggerty told Lacaze that he had read his motion and was prepared to rule on it unless the defendant had something to say which was not included in the motion.

At that time Lacaze said: "I would like to put Mr. Garrison and Mr. Alcock on the stand and would like to show that they said they would drop the case against me for \$3,500. Mr. Alcock put it to me that way."

The judge then told Lacaze his list of persons he wanted subpoenaed would have to include addresses.

Lacaze waived trial by jury and the case is being heard by Judge Haggerty.