

DA to Trigger Congress Action, Author Predicts

Solons Will Follow with Own Probe — Weisberg

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation is going to culminate in a congressional investigation," said a New York author after testifying before a secret session of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury almost three hours Friday.

Writer Harold Weisberg, who has written two books severely criticizing the Warren Commission Report on the death of President John F. Kennedy, entered the jury room at 10 a. m. with DA Jim Garrison and Assistant DAs Richard Burns, Alvin Oser, James Alcock and Andrew Sciambra. He departed with Garrison shortly before 1 p. m.

Weisberg charged the Warren Commission had failed in its



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
HAROLD WEISBERG
Testifies before Grand Jury.

mission of fact gathering and said, "The last thing I want is a reopening of the Warren Commission or anything like it."

CHARGES PREVENTION

He said he expects "a new

and thorough investigation by Congress which will be entirely open to the public," even though "right now the federal government is trying every possible way to prevent Garrison's investigation."

Weisberg described his first book "Whitewash" as a blow against the Warren report and the second "Whitewash II" as criticism of what he termed "CIA, Secret Service and FBI coverups."

While there was no immediate indication of what was discussed in the secret jury session, sources in the DA's office said it might center upon possibly operations of the Central Intelligence Agency here.

Published reports this week said there is mounting evidence of a CIA link to the inquiry by Garrison into what he charges was a plot to kill Kennedy.

At 11:20 a.m. Alcock and a member of the jury hurriedly left the secret session, but returned within 20 minutes. Sciambra came through the jury room door at 11:30 a.m.

BLASTS PHELAN STORY

The Saturday Evening Post published a story by James Phelan this week which was critical of Garrison and his investigation. The story drew immediate fire from the DA's office.

Sciambra, who Phelan said did not mention star witness Perry Russo's later conspiracy disclosures in a report on his first interview with the Baton Rouge salesman, called Phelan's article "incomplete and distorted."

Defense attorneys for 54-year-old Clay L. Shaw, the only man charged with complicity in Kennedy's murder, have asked Criminal District Court to subpoena Phelan for testimony.

They termed the writer's testimony "essential to the defense."

Russo testified at a preliminary hearing for Shaw that he overheard the retired New Orleans businessman conspire with the late David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald to kill the president.