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Deep Pinball Clouds Remain

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison has won acquittal from a federal district court jury on charges of conspiracy to obstruct state law enforcement involving pinball gambling. Codefendants Robert E. Nims and John Aruns Callery likewise were found not guilty.

Finding the trio innocent of charges, however, does not completely clear away the clouds which gathered as a result of pinball illegalities. In the pinball bribery conspiracy case, 10 persons were indicted. Three have been found not guilty, three — a former police captain and two owners of pinball companies — have pleaded guilty and await sentencing, and trials of four remain to be heard.

The cases awaiting trial constitute part of the remaining heavy cloud. But if the Garrison-Nims-Callery trial removed legal shadows from their names, certain testimony in the case opened new areas for investigation by law enforcement agencies. In this respect, more clouds were generated.

Following new leads to come out of the five-week-old trial, a federal grand jury has been hearing witness-

Atty. Gen. William J. Guste's new organized crime and racketeering unit, created earlier this month, may have found grist in the trial. When he announced formation of the unit he said it would not only coordinate with parish and local law enforcement authorities but follow leads uncovered by federal investigations.

One bit of trial evidence purported to show the involvement of illegal pinball gambling in maintaining an ineffective state pinball law on the books.

The State Bar Association, it is assumed, will take a close look at testimony regarding activities of some members of the bar.

The Public Affairs Research Council in its study of organized crime in Louisiana in 1970 alleged that the office of the state collector of revenue gave "favored treatment" to pinball machine operators for many years at a loss of more than \$100,000 a year despite a state law to the contrary. The PAR study was compiled for the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice.

So, many deep clouds remain over Louisiana from the heyday of illegal pinball gambling.

But Lingerin Clouds Remain

