

Times-Picayune
3/15/67

SECTION ONE—PAGE TWO

PHONE THREATS TOLD BY RAULT

Says Financial Backers of
Probe Get Calls

Members of "Truth and Consequences," an organization backing District Atty. Jim Garrison's current probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, have received threatening phone calls, according to Joseph M. Rault Jr., an organizer of the group.

Rault did not reveal how many members had been called or just what the threats were.

Rault, who has known Garrison for 18 years, was a leader in organizing the businessmen's efforts to finance Garrison's probe, the first chapter of which was unfurled Tuesday at the Criminal Courts bldg. Asked how large is the total of contributions, Rault replied, "I don't know, but the money and checks are still coming in."

Other key organizers of the group were Willard E. Robertson and Cecil H. Shilstone. The base group numbered 50 of New Orleans' leading businessmen, willing to put up \$100 a month for "at least three months."

Rault said he did not attend the preliminary hearing Tuesday. He pointed to a newspaper and said, "I'm keeping up with it through this."

"I could have gotten a seat," said Rault, "but I didn't figure that would be the right thing to do. We wanted to back our district attorney, and we're going to let him do it the way he wants to do."

Referring again to the threatening calls, Rault agreed they could have been from cranks. "I hope so," he said, "but we've got a lot of nuts."