

BLESSING TELLS OF JURY'S PROBE

T.P. 8-9-69

Delinquency, Not Bonds,
Topic of Testimony

Juvenile Court Judge Leo G. Blessing said his Thursday appearance before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury was completely unrelated to the Maryland National Insurance Co. investigation.

"I appeared at the grand jury's invitation and did not testify but told the jury of delinquency problems among young people in Orleans Parish," he told The Times-Picayune Friday.

He said a news story in The Times-Picayune left an incorrect impression that he testified in regard to bonding company matters.

"However, I told the jury of the need for additional facilities to help the youngsters who come through our court," Judge Blessing said.

He added that he has not used any bonding company in the past two years.

The judge said his custom with adults who appear on charges of non-support is to release a defendant on his own recognizance or to a responsible person.

If neither of these methods is possible, the judge said he orders the individual to post a \$100 cash bond.