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Suit by Maryland Firm to Bring Dismissal Plea

Wimberly Says Motion Will Be Filed

The District Attorney's Office said it will file a motion in federal court Monday to dismiss

a suit which would prohibit seizure of assets of the Maryland National Insurance Co.

Assistant District Attorney Shirley C. Wimberly Jr. said Friday the action will be taken

to counter Maryland's injunction suit, which was set for a hearing at 9:30 a.m. July 1 in the court of Federal District Judge Lansing L. Mitchell.

The district attorney's office

accused the Maryland company of failing to pay \$629,000 in bond forfeitures due in Criminal District Court cases. The office was preparing to seize the firm's assets in the state when the injunction suit was filed.

Wimberly told The Times-Picayune Friday he does not have a compilation of monies that may be owed by other bonding companies such as Maryland. He maintained, however, that the sum owned by Maryland is the largest of any that may be owed.

In any case, Wimberly said, he is not in a position to discuss the matter because of the pending suit.

The Maryland issue was brought to light when former Assistant Dist. Atty. Charles R. Ward asked the Orleans Parish Grand Jury to investigate an alleged attempt to blackmail the district attorney's office into settling a claim against the company.

Ward, who resigned Tuesday as an assistant to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, is running against Garrison in the November election.

Ward wrote a letter to grand jury foreman Fernand S. Lapeyre which said an attorney, Ralph L. Kaskell, threatened to reveal depositions accusing Ward of accepting bribes if a compromise with the bonding company were not accepted. Ward said Kaskell tried to arrange a compromise in which only \$100,000 of the \$629,000 in forfeitures would be paid.

Kaskell denied Ward's accusations and said he will appear before the grand jury to testify on the matter. The jury will meet again Thursday.