

of Subpenaing Kennedy

Garrison Says Governor Phoned About Matter

District Atty. Jim Garrison said Saturday that he has no intention of subpoenaing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy when he comes to New Orleans Friday.

Garrison confirmed that Gov. John J. McKeithen called him this week and asked if he (Garrison) intended to subpoena Sen. Kennedy. "I replied that this was the last thing on my mind," said Garrison.

"The inference that my office has ever considered serving a subpoena on any member of the Kennedy family is totally false," said Garrison. "The personnel in my office have sympathy for the members of the Kennedy family and feel that enough harm has been done to them by the distortions of the present administration of the national government without our adding to their harassment."

"This is not intended as a criticism of the press inasmuch as I am certain that the situation was set up and fed to the press. It is even possible that false information was sent to Sen. Kennedy to create a legitimate concern in his mind that some embarrassing action was contemplated."

"It is true that Gov. McKeithen called me the other day and asked if I intended to subpoena Sen. Kennedy and I replied that this was the last thing on my mind. I think the real story will be found by tracing back to the source of the story."

Garrison continued, "The obvious aim of this particular fabrication was to embarrass Sen. Kennedy by falsely inferring that he somehow had hidden information wanted by us and to further add to the picture being developed nationally of me as an irrational person."

"As far as I am concerned, Sen. Kennedy is more than welcome in New Orleans and in Louisiana. I think all the men of courage who have shown they are willing to oppose the incumbent—from George Wallace to Sen. Eugene McCarthy to Sen. Kennedy—should be regarded as a healthy and hopeful sign. I have no doubt that Sen. Kennedy will receive a warm welcome here in his own right."

"Furthermore, I think he will find when he reaches Louisiana that we remember with affection his brother, the late President John F. Kennedy. It would be my personal hope that New Orleans and Louisiana would demonstrate to him that this is a place where he and his family will always be most welcome in visiting."

In another development, Edgar Eugene Bradley, charged with conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy by Garrison, was granted a six months continuance in his fight against extradition to New Orleans.

Los Angeles, Calif., Municipal Court Judge Joan D. Klein ordered Bradley, 42, North Hollywood, Calif., to appear Sept. 30 for an extradition hearing on a fugitive warrant from Louisiana.

Reggie is a key Louisiana Kennedy supporter.

However, McKeithen said Saturday that he stood on a news conference statement of Wednesday. At that time the governor said that no candidate except Alabama's George Wallace offered him the second spot in a presidential campaign.

The governor emphasized that he was reiterating that statement. He did say he would reassess his position if he were offered a vice-presidential slot but as of this time there has been no such offer.

"I still refuse to confirm or deny that Bobby Kennedy called me," McKeithen said.

Judge Reggie said the talk of McKeithen being a vice-presidential candidate on the Kennedy ticket "is serious."

But he said, he knew nothing of any reported telephone calls between Kennedy and the governor.

Kennedy will spend Friday night in Judge Reggie's home in Crowley, the judge said. Reggie added that a reception is planned for the senator the following day.

The judge said McKeithen had been invited to attend the reception but did not know whether he would come.

McKeithen has said that Kennedy would be accorded all the usual courtesies of the governor's office during his trip to Louisiana.

McKeithen Declines Comment on Kennedy

Gov. John McKeithen Saturday in Baton Rouge still declined comment on a reported conversation with Sen. Robert F. Kennedy although the senator said he talked with the governor three weeks ago.

"I haven't heard from the governor since," Kennedy, on the campaign trail in Arizona, said.

McKeithen also discounted a widespread rumor that Kennedy had offered him the vice-presidential slot on his ticket.

The Kennedy camp confirmed the senator called McKeithen three weeks ago to request McKeithen intervene in an attempt to prevent New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison from subpoenaing Kennedy.

Kennedy will visit New Orleans Friday and will speak on urban problems in the United States at 4 p. m. at Loyola Field House.

His address is being sponsored by the New Orleans Consortium composed of Loyola and Xavier Universities and Dominican College in cooperation with the Tulane University student body.

Sen. Kennedy's speech, which is free and open to the public, is in connection with the series "Cry of the City" sponsored by the Consortium.

The New York Democrat is also scheduled to speak on United States foreign policy and international relations at 8 p.m. Friday in the University Center on the campus of Louisiana State University in New Orleans.

City Judge Edmund Reggie of Crowley is boosting McKeithen as Kennedy's running mate.