

Kohn Testifies in Jury's Organized Crime Probe

T.P. 7-18-69
Among Several Under
Subpoena to Appear

By BOB USSERY

Metropolitan Crime Commission managing director Aaron M. Kohn left the Orleans Parish Grand Jury room Thursday afternoon after testifying for nearly three hours in a jury probe of organized crime.

Kohn said he was scheduled to appear before the jury again at 3 p. m. the following Thursday.

The all-day session was apparently devoted entirely to crime.

Other witnesses were also invited to appear. Kohn and his attorney, Milton Brener, temporarily abandoned Wednesday an attempt in Federal District Court to block a subpoena which had earlier been issued for Kohn.

Brener, who stood by in the Criminal Courts Building as Kohn testified, said an agreement had been reached with the district attorney's office that Kohn would not be pressed to reveal his confidential sources.

With that stipulation, Kohn agreed to appear voluntarily rather than be subpoenaed.

HAS REFUSED

Kohn's refusal to do so before past grand juries has resulted in two Parish Prison sentences for contempt of court.

Kohn has long held that organized crime flourishes in New Orleans.

Kohn entered the jury room at 3:10 p.m. and left shortly before 6 p.m.

Immediately preceding Kohn's appearance was one by Ross T. Scaccia, a candidate for the office of district attorney.

Scaccia formerly served as an assistant DA in charge of vice and as an assistant U.S. attorney.

A New Orleans police detec-

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CRIME PROBE

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tive, Dave Kent of the intelligence division, and Wallace Moll, chief of the federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, testified during the morning.

Grand jury proceedings are secret, but Kent was expected to give his opinion on suggestions that the intelligence division be beefed up to more effectively combat organized crime.

NEITHER APPEARS

Moll, whose division is part of the Treasury Department, deals with narcotics and other offenses related to organized crime.

The jury also invited Life magazine reporter David L. Chandler and Jefferson Parish Sheriff Alwynn J. Cronvich, but neither appeared.

Assistant DA James L. Alcock said their appearances had been canceled, but did not say why.

Chandler contributed to Life articles last year which charged that organized crime is rampant in Louisiana.

Kohn and Chandler have had differences with DA Jim Garrison over the organized crime issue. The DA's office serves as legal adviser to the jury.