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Probe Started on Charges Seeking Ouster of O'Hara

Gremillion Says Study to Be Thorough

Louisiana Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion Tuesday announced he had begun a "thorough study and investigation" of charges for the requested ouster of Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara.

Gremillion said he will investigate charges which led the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans, Inc., to seek O'Hara's ouster. He said the probe is being made at the request of the New Orleans Bar Association.

Gremillion said his office is awaiting a promised petition from the MCC which has called for removal of Judge O'Hara from office.

Said Gremillion, "This is an important matter which must require thorough study and investigation."

O'Hara's testimony in August in Chicago at a new trial hear-

ing for convicted Teamster Union leader James Hoffa brought about the controversy as to his fitness to hold office.

O'Hara told a Chicago Federal Court he was the expense-paid traveling companion of Zachary A. Strate, a New Orleans builder, and has served as a "messenger" in attempts to procure evidence in behalf of Hoffa.

Strate was convicted with Hoffa in 1964 of fraud and conspiracy charges growing out of government contentions of misuse of Teamster Union funds.

Monday, the Crime Commission confirmed it plans to follow statutory procedure by filing a 25-signature petition initiating a suit seeking O'Hara's removal.

Such a suit requires an investigation by the attorney general's office which, at its conclusion, will file the findings with the Louisiana State Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court subsequently will review the evidence and decide whether the office holder should be removed from his post.

According to Gremillion, the investigation will consume "considerable time and effort."