

PITCHER, GARRISON SWAP INFORMATION

TP 10/27/67

Organized Crime Charge Probes Continue

The district attorney of East Baton Rouge Parish disclosed Thursday that he has exchanged information with Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison on the parishes' twin probes into alleged organized crime in Louisiana.

Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher said in Baton Rouge that he and Garrison wanted to keep each other notified on the progress of the investigations. Pitcher said he met with Garrison Wednesday.

Another part of Pitcher's day was spent with Baton Rouge Teamster official Edward Grady Partin who gave Pitcher information about two alleged attempts to kill him. Partin later gave testimony to the East Baton Rouge Parish Grand Jury in its probe of organized crime.

Pitcher said that Partin would give the grand jury details about the two alleged assassination plots.

Meanwhile, the Orleans Parish Grand Jury continued its crime probe Thursday by scheduling two new witnesses, one a former aide to Garrison.

Subpnaed were Ross T. Scaccia, a former assistant district attorney under Garrison, and Lee Leonard, a former law partner of Scaccia.

Although Garrison's office would give no reasons for the subpoenas Thursday, Scaccia later told The Times-Picayune that he was being called before the grand jury for "educational" purposes, and not as a suspect of any wrongdoing.

Scaccia, also a former assistant United States attorney, said that during his four years as an assistant DA he was in charge of prosecuting all cases dealing with vice and narcotics, and had been called in on occasions to testify on such activities.

There was no explanation of why Leonard was subpoenaed.

MAY BE RECALLED

In Baton Rouge, Partin had

claimed Monday in a U.S. District Court motion that two attempts had been made to kill him, one 10 months ago and the other within the past two weeks. The motion was made in connection with a civil suit. The labor leader is among defendants in a \$3.1 million antitrust damage suit.

Partin said that he had testified voluntarily, and that he may be recalled to give further statements.

"If I didn't have documented evidence," he stated, "I wouldn't have said anything about it to start with."

Returning Thursday to give more testimony was Aubrey Young, a former aide to Gov. John J. McKeithen. Young turned state's evidence in a probe of reported influence on state government exercised by the Cosa Nostra. After his testimony, the grand jury indicted a former New Orleans contractor, D'Alton Smith, on pub-

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CRIME PROBE

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lic bribery charges for allegedly offering Young \$25,000.

'OFFERED MILLION'

According to Pitcher, the offer was made to arrange a meeting between Smith and Partin. Partin has also said he was offered \$1 million to change his testimony in the grand jury tampering conviction of Teamster president James R. Hoffa.

In a related development in New Orleans, Life Magazine reporter David L. Chandler was turned down in federal court Thursday in his bid to prevent Garrison from subpoenaing him to appear before the grand jury.

BRIEFS ORDERED

The ruling was made by Federal District Judge James E. Comiskey.

Chandler had charged that Garrison intended to trap him into perjuring himself if he appeared before the jury.

Judge Comiskey agreed that Chandler may be subjected to a violation of the freedom of speech portion of the First Amendment to the Constitution, but added that he could assert his constitutional defense in the event he is charged.

The judge ordered attorneys for both Chandler and Garrison to submit briefs by Nov. 13 on Chandler's request for a three-judge federal panel to hear his case.

MAGAZINE STORIES

The grand jury probes were sparked after Life Magazine carried a series of articles revealing extensive organized crime in Louisiana. Chandler was a co-author of the series.

Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock told the federal court Thursday that Chandler will not be indicted for perjury if he can back up the stories appearing in Life.

Chandler's attorney Cicero Sessions said Garrison aims to trap Chandler into perjury by having him contradict testimony of other witnesses before the grand jury or to "intimidate" Chandler into retracting his investigative portions of the crime articles.