

Nov. 1/67

Chandler Issue Decision Nears

Court May Rule Today on Jury Appearance

A decision may be made Wednesday by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on the appeal of Life Magazine reporter David L. Chandler to avoid an appearance before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Asst. D. A. James L. Alcock was sharply questioned by a three-judge panel which heard arguments on the issue Monday afternoon.

Chandler's attorney Cicero C. Sessions is asking Appellate Judges Warren L. Jones, John Minor Wisdom and David W. Dyer to restrain the DA's office and the grand jury from forcing Chandler to testify.

U.S. District Court Judge James A. Comiskey ruled against Chandler last week and Chandler has now received a

subpena ordering a grand jury appearance at 2 p.m. Thursday.

Sessions said Chandler has twice been threatened with a perjury prosecution.

Chandler gave information to Life Magazine for its three articles in September which allege that organized crime exists in Louisiana.

Sessions said that First Asst. DA Charles R. Ward said in a local television interview last week that the articles are lies.

Judge Jones told Alcock, "If someone went on TV and called me a liar I would think he didn't like me."

Alcock responded that Ward was giving a personal opinion and that the grand jury is a group of laymen interested in finding out what information Chandler has.

Alcock said that the first subpena went out to Chandler on Oct. 6 and he has yet to come

before the grand jury.

Judge Jones, the senior judge, then asked, "Would there not be more injury if Mr. Chandler goes to the grand jury without counsel than if the grand jury has to wait for a lower three-judge decision?"

In addition to wanting Judge Comiskey to stop Garrison and the grand jury from getting testimony from Chandler, Sessions requests a special three-judge court to make a permanent decision.

Judge Comiskey said he will receive written briefs on Nov. 13.

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