

5-1 11-28-67
NOVEMBER 28, 1967

Only Jury Will Quiz Reporter, Garrison Vows

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison has told a special three-judge federal court panel that if Life Magazine reporter David L. Chandler appears before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury he will be questioned by the jury with no member of the district attorney's staff present.

Garrison made the statement to Judge Robert A. Ainsworth, of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and District Judges Edward J. Boyle Sr. and James A. Comiskey. The question of whether Chandler must appear before the jury has been taken under advisement by the court.

ATTORNEYS for Chandler and for Garrison were given 15 days in which to file briefs in support of yesterday's testimony and argument.

Chandler claims Garrison is harassing him and would attempt to have him indicted for perjury if he testified before the grand jury.

Under questioning by James L. Alcock, his assistant, Garrison said he will not submit any questions for jurors to ask Chandler if he appeared.

ANOTHER witness, Bill Davidson, a writer for the Saturday Evening Post, testified that Garrison told him "all the facts" of an alleged bribe offer

by Carlos Marcello to Garrison.

These facts, he said, were that Pershing Gervais, a Garrison aide at the time, had been approached by a man who said Carlos Marcello wanted to see him, and that Gervais met with Marcello at his country estate at Churchill Farms in Jefferson Parish.

At this meeting Marcello reportedly said he "wanted to get back into New Orleans," and wanted to put two electronic slot machines in the city, then have Garrison make a raid and seize them.

DAVIDSON said he was told that if a court declared the machines to be legal and the district attorney did not press an appeal, Marcello would pay Garrison \$3,000 a week for 300 machines Marcello would then place in New Orleans.

Davidson said the story was told to him by Garrison "as an absolute specific fact and I printed it as such."

The bribe was never accepted, Davidson said under cross-examination by Alcock. He gave no answer when asked by Alcock, "He was going to pay Garrison \$156,000 to do his job?"

CHANDLER claimed on the stand that on one occasion when he asked Garrison why he did not prosecute Marcello for the alleged bribe offer Garrison told him that it was because Gervais was a friend of Marcello.

Alcock sought to show that if any such bribe offer had been made, it was made in Jefferson Parish and Garrison had no jurisdiction.