

DA Didn't 'Use' Grand Jury, 9 Members Say

A joint statement by nine of the 12 Orleans Parish Grand Jurors whose term expired recently said they were not "used" by District Attorney Jim Garrison during their term.

The statement was issued following charges made by Metropolitan Crime Commission President Dr. J. D. Grey and managing director Aaron M. Kohn.

The latter two issued a statement following a news conference in which two ex-jurors, Mrs. Dolores V. Mason-Smith and Walter O. Eckert Sr., commented about Kohn and the MCC.

The statement was written by Mrs. Mason-Smith and signed by Sylvan B. Pendley, Eckert, Albert Flair, Robert P. Jolet, Laurence Martin, Joseph O. Misshore Jr., John R. Nides and Louis Brothers.

It said Kohn and Dr. Grey would have the public believe the jurors were unintelligent individuals and that they sat silent with no thoughts of their own.

"Mr. Kohn knows this is not true," the statement said. "As for Dr. Grey, he could not possibly know what goes on in the grand jury room regarding legal advice given the grand jury by the district attorney's office unless he had the room bugged, since he did not enter the room.

"As to Mr. Kohn's treatment in the grand jury room, Dr. Grey must have heard that only from Mr. Kohn and that leaves open two schools of thought. Was it true? Or was the secrecy of the grand jury room violated? Mr. Kohn also knows the answer to this . . ."