

GARRISON FACES CONTEMPT MOVE

T.P. 3-16-68
Motion Filed by Attorney
for Life Newsmen

An attorney for newsman David L. Chandler has asked that a federal court order District Attorney Jim Garrison to show cause why he should not be held in civil contempt.

Attorney Cicero C. Sessions filed a motion Thursday charging that Garrison should be held in contempt because of statements he made Wednesday at a convention meeting of the National District Attorneys' Association.

Federal District Judge James A. Comiskey and a special three-judge federal court ruled Monday that Chandler, a reporter for Life Magazine, does not have to honor a subpoena to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in connection with the magazine's charge that organized crime is rampant in the New Orleans area.

ATTACKS STATEMENTS

In his motion Sessions charges that among statements made by Garrison at the convention meeting was one which in essence claimed that Life Magazine is withholding evidence from the district attorney at directions of the federal government in Garrison's investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

He also alleges that Garrison said that there is a federal conspiracy for withholding of such evidence, that the opinions of the federal courts in the Chandler matter are without basis in law, and that the court reached such opinions and conclusions by direction of unnamed officers of the federal government.

NOT YET FINAL

The motion claims that these actions constitute civil contempt because the judgment of Judge Comiskey is not yet final and the matter is still open before the court.

Alternatively, the motion asks that if the court should decide that the matter is one for criminal contempt proceedings, the court should appoint an attorney to prosecute such proceedings.

Sessions served notice that he will bring the matter up for hearing Wednesday at 11 a. m.