

DR. GREY CALL DROPPED BY DA

Ward Claims Minister
Answers Questions

Assistant District Attorney Charles R. Ward announced Friday that the district attorney's office is withdrawing its subpoena for Dr. J. D. Grey, president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, maintaining Dr. Grey has publicly answered the questions DA's aides wanted to ask him.

A federal court Thursday issued a temporary restraining order against enforcement of the subpoena on Dr. Grey, pastor of the First Baptist Church. The minister had said he would seek a permanent injunction before Assistant DA Ward made his Friday announcement that the subpoena is being withdrawn.

Ward said: "As a result of the amazing admissions of Rev. J. D. Grey at his press conference of yesterday (Thursday), we are withdrawing the subpoena for him to appear in the district attorney's office to answer questions about his attempt to influence several of the associate justices of the (Louisiana) Supreme Court.

NOT NECESSARY

"It is no longer necessary for him to answer questions under oath because at last, after several false denials, he has been forced to admit publicly what we knew he would have to admit under oath—that in spite of his denials—he had visited three justices of the Supreme Court while a case in which he was vitally interested was pending before that court," Ward said.

The office of District Attorney Jim Garrison had charged that Dr. Grey contacted the high court justices while they were considering a contempt citation against Aaron M. Kohn, managing director of the MCC. The court subsequently cleared Kohn of the contempt charges.

After Federal District Judge

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DR. GREY CALL

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Herbert W. Chistenberry stayed the subpoena Thursday, Dr. Grey, at a news conference, explained that he talked with some of the judges on matters unrelated to the Kohn case.

Ward said the District Attorney's office has never said that Dr. Grey "crudely asked" any associate justice for a favorable verdict.

"He is much too clever and sophisticated for that—and he would have been tossed out on his ear," Ward said. "We have said—and say again—that Rev. Grey secretly contacted on several occasions a justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court—while the case of the Metropolitan Crime Commission was pending in that court," Ward charged.

ASSAILS VISIT

Ward said the very fact of his visit to the Supreme Court was objectionable, and becomes even more objectionable when it is revealed that he is the pastor of an associate justice of that court.

Ward maintained that the purpose of Dr. Grey's visit was "to subtly remind the associate justice of his position as pastor."

Ward added that "it is strange that on that very same day—at the Supreme Court Building—Dr. Grey sought out two other associate justices—and on some other pretext had occasion to drop into their office."

Dr. Grey "did attempt to improperly influence the Supreme Court," Ward said.

"You are not supposed to socialize with judges who are considering your case in court!" Ward added.