

T-P 10-10-68

# Sapir Using Grand Jury to Avoid Hearing--Kohn

## Councilman Has Meeting with Garrison

Aaron M. Kohn Wednesday accused City Councilman Eddie L. Sapir of using the Orleans Parish Grand Jury to avoid a public hearing on allegations of a relationship between Sapir and rackets figure Carlos Marcello.

The managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission made his statements after Sapir left a meeting in the district attorney's office and announced that both he and Kohn "would be given an opportunity to present evidence to the grand jury."

"I am confident that after the grand jury hears Mr. Kohn and myself that Mr. Kohn will once again be proven a professional liar," Sapir said.

Asked if the jury hearing could result in a charge against Kohn, Sapir replied, "I hope so."

As for what possible charge may result, Sapir said, "It amounts to public intimidation."

### CONFERRED WITH DA

Sapir said he conferred with DA Jim Garrison, Chief Asst. DA Charles R. Ward, and Executive Asst. DA James L. Alcock.

He said he turned over to them a tape recording of Thursday's council meeting at which, Sapir said, Kohn accused him of favoring the charity bingo ordinance to further the interests of the Marcello family.

Sapir said he wants Kohn to prove this statement and another claiming that he is in "continuous contact" with the Marcellos.

The councilman said he told the DA and his staff of the "wicked and malicious lies made by a known professional liar."

Kohn said Sapir was using the grand jury to divert attention from the MCC's call for a public hearing.

### PROPER PLACE

Kohn alleged that Sapir has

a "continuing relationship" with the Marcello family, and said that the following is the central question:

"What is the meaning of his relationship with the Marcellos?"

The MCC has asked Sapir to publicly answer the question about what influence the relationship would have on his decision on an ordinance, Kohn said.

"Answering that question before the grand jury is not going to tell the public... We think the proper place to answer the question is before the public and not in the privacy of the grand jury," Kohn said. Grand jury proceedings are secret.

Kohn said he would not be an appropriate witness if he is being charged.

"If Mr. Sapir is charging me with a crime then I would not be a proper witness for the grand jury. If I'm being called to charge Mr. Sapir, I have no evidence against Mr. Sapir," Kohn said.

### NO COUNCIL WORD

Kohn said he had suggested to the council that in the event of a hearing, he could suggest the names of persons for the council to call.

However, he said he saw no reason for calling the same persons before the grand jury because the MCC is not accusing Sapir of any crime, and therefore has no case to present.

Kohn said the MCC has had no word from the council on the request for a public hearing.

Sapir said he has also requested a council investigation.

Discussing the bingo issue itself, Kohn said that history "has shown that if you legalize bingo, people who formerly operated illegally move in on it."

He said that cases of violations of regulations, falsification of records and audits, and bribery of bingo commission members were recorded in New

York after bingo was legalized in that state.

### USED FRONTS, CLAIM

Illegal operators used fronts to exploit the situation, he said.

He also said that "Marcello's joints over in Jefferson Parish" operated bingo games among other forms of gambling.

"It's logical to expect history to repeat itself," he said.

"Since there is a member of the council who is voting on

this issue, all we want to know is, 'How are you affected by your relationship with those people who financially benefited from the illegal operation of bingo in the past?'" Kohn said.

Kohn noted that he was not inferring that anyone who is for bingo has evil motives.

A source in the DA's office said the matter probably will not come up before the grand jury at the meeting Thursday.

He said appearances probably will be by invitation, and not through subpoenas.