

Ask Rehearing, Is Plea of MCC

Gremillion Urged to Try O'Hara Case Move

The Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans Friday urged Louisiana Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion to apply to the state Supreme Court for a rehearing in the attempted ouster of Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara.

In a letter dispatched jointly by William I. Monaghan, MCC acting president, and Aaron M.

Kohn, managing director, the pair said they wanted the court to "reexamine its evaluation of the Louisiana Constitution in relationship to the public interest, and to the entire criminal justice system, as applied to the O'Hara case."

Gremillion's office, with the support of the MCC, had attempted to have Judge O'Hara removed from office for alleged misconduct. Justice E. Howard McCaleb was the only Supreme Court member to vote for

O'Hara's removal.

"We do not believe . . .," the letter continued, "that final judgment of the majority of the court was consistent with the public interest."

"In our time, from speech platforms and through communications media, the public is being implored to exhibit 'respect for law and order.' Rising crime is, in the words of (Federal Bureau of Investigation director) J. Edgar Hoover, 'ripping away the very fiber of

our society and our system of government.'"

The MCC officials stated that when one judge conducts himself in a manner which violates public trust, thereby causing distrust and disrespect, he must be removed.

"If, instead, the highest court in the state's judicial system finds justification for keeping him on the bench, it must expect that public respect for law and order will decline," the MCC said. "Instaed of critically needed confidence, suspicion will contaminate public attitudes toward criminal justice."

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The matter stemmed from allegations that O'Hara played a role in attempting to have convicted Teamster boss James C. Hoffa freed from prison.

The 1967 birth rate in the United States was 17.9 per 1,000 population — the lowest birth rate in the history of the nation.

The Supreme Court of Louisiana last week found Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara not guilty of "that flagrant and extreme misconduct which would warrant his removal from office." In a 6-1 decision, the high tribunal held Judge O'Hara to be guilty of misconduct, but not to the extent that would justify his ouster. Proceedings against Judge O'Hara had been initiated by the state which based its suit on the contention that O'Hara was guilty of gross misconduct in his private affairs.

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