

O'HARA ASKED BY CRIME UNIT

F-P TO STEP DOWN
9/17/67
Judge Levels Blast at
Kohn in Rebuttal

The Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans Inc., said Wednesday that it recommended, in a letter sent to Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara, that he "immediately" resign from any further performance of judicial functions in the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court.

Although receipt for the registered letter apparently was signed by Judge O'Hara, it was remailed and returned unopened to the Crime Commission office Tuesday of this week, a spokesman said.

In a statement released Wednesday, the executive committee of the Crime Commission said it believes that Judge O'Hara's conduct, revealed by his sworn testimony Aug. 21 in Federal District Court in Chicago, renders him "unfit to continue serving in the critically important duties of a judge."

In a rebuttal statement issued Wednesday, Judge O'Hara said, "I understand from various news media that a letter written by (MCC managing director) Aaron Kohn calls for my resignation. I returned this registered letter addressed to me from the Metropolitan Crime Commission unopened and I have the following comments and explanations:

WON'T ANSWER MAIL

"While I am positive that most members of this group are well intentioned and well respected citizens of this community, I am equally certain that its managing director, Aaron Kohn, is nothing more than a professional muckraker, charlatan and a genius at spewing forth a great volume of half-truths and innuendos.

"Therefore, I wish to inform the MCC's executive committee that I will continue not to answer mail from them, and will return its mail unopened until such time as Kohn is no longer

officially affiliated with them. At this time, I will be more than happy to meet with and discuss any questions they may have.

"I would like to remind the gentlemen who comprise the executive committee of the Metropolitan Crime Commission that Kohn's lies on me began in 1954, so I know him for what he is. He may have forgotten how he helped engi-

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JUDGE O'HARA

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neer two phony, politically inspired indictments against me in 1957, which were immediately thrown out of court, but I most certainly have not forgotten.

"So, if Kohn or any group he is connected with thinks for a moment that I will lower myself to discuss or correspond with anyone from Kohn's level, they are sadly mistaken. If anyone should resign, it should be Aaron Kohn."

HOFFA CASE

The Chicago court proceeding was an unsuccessful attempt to revoke one of the convictions of imprisoned labor leader Jimmy Hoffa. Judge O'Hara reportedly testified that for about 16 months he has been a "very, very intimate friend" and daily companion of Zachary A. Strate Jr., who, along with Hoffa and others, had been convicted in Chicago of six counts of mail fraud and one count of conspiracy.

O'Hara reportedly admitted that he had taken several trips to Washington, D. C., and one to Las Vegas, usually with expenses paid by Strate. He testified he had participated in meetings at the Washington headquarters of Teamsters with co-defendants of Hoffa, and others. During some of these travels he was absent from his court duties because of "ear trouble," despite a large backlog of major criminal cases awaiting trial, according to the Crime Commission.