

ASKING GRAND JURY TO CALL KOHN--DA

Reacts to MCC Request for Counter Probe

District Attorney Jim Garrison's reaction to a Metropolitan Crime Commission call for a state investigation of his assassination probe methods was to announce that he will have MCC managing director Aaron Kohn called before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Garrison said in a news conference in his office Thursday that he will request the foreman of the jury to call Kohn for the next meeting, which will be Wednesday.

Earlier Thursday the MCC called upon Louisiana Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion to launch an exhaustive investigation into the manner in which Garrison is conducting his probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

An eight-page letter to the attorney general asked him to select a blue-ribbon committee to name a special panel of three investigators.

The letter was signed by Kohn and MCC president E. C. Upton Jr., and cited an hour-long National Broadcasting Co. program questioning Garrison's case. It said in part:

"If accusations broadcast throughout the nation on Monday night are true, the people of New Orleans are without basis for confidence that the laws of this state will be applied so as to convict the guilty and exonerate the innocent.

'NOW IMPERATIVE'

"On the contrary, there is reason for fear that anyone may be charged and prosecuted based upon contriving false evidence.

"We believe we express the opinion of all objective observers when we state it is now imperative that an official, impartial, fact-finding procedure be established to immediately and exhaustively examine all allegations made against the Orleans Parish district attorney's office."

Garrison replied to the call for the impartial fact-finding body by stating:

"It happens that we already have machinery for inquiring

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CAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS, LA., FRIDAY MORNING,

MCC CHIEF FACES JURY CALL

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into wrongdoing on the part of public officials. This organization is made up of citizens without any political commitments of any kind and it is known as the grand jury."

Garrison also referred to an appearance of Kohn before a previous grand jury to air charges of organized crime in New Orleans, and said Kohn had been "exposed" as a result.

"The last time he was exposed as a liar and he will be in this case," Garrison said.

Garrison also charged that Kohn "felt it necessary to join the effort from Washington."

ACCUSES NBC

Garrison had accused NBC of acting on behalf of elements in Washington, which he claims do not want the truth about the assassination to be made public.

He said the national network was attempting to discredit his investigation, and had interfered with state's witnesses and offered them inducements.

Calling attention to specific points of the NBC program, Kohn and Upton said in their letter:

"The NBC program, through various persons interviewed, contained the following allegations:

"1. John Chancler, convicted burglar and current prison in-

mate stated that:

"A. Witness Vernon Bundy admitted to him that he had lied in the Clay Shaw preliminary hearing.

"B. District attorney investigators Louis Ivon and Lynn Loisel took him from the prison to evaluate the possibilities of illegally entering Clay Shaw's residence 'to put something in there.'

"2. Miguel Torres, convicted burglar and Angola inmate, alleges that:

"A. Witness Vernon Bundy admitted he had testified against Clay Shaw to escape five-year imprisonment for parole violation.

"B. DA investigators Lynn Loisel and Louis Ivon offered to have him released immediately from his nine-year prison sentence, if he would make false statements against Clay Shaw."

APPEARED ON PROGRAM

Bundy gave testimony against Shaw at a preliminary hearing. He said he saw Shaw give money to accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald on the New Orleans lakefront in the fall of 1963.

Chancler's allegations were originally carried in a New York Times story. Chancler has declined to sign a sworn statement. However, he did appear on the NBC program. Shaw, 54-year-old retired New

Orleans businessman, is free on \$10,000 bond awaiting trial on a charge that he conspired to murder Kennedy.

Another point in the MCC letter covers an alleged bribe attempt attributed to two of Garrison's police department investigators.

The letter says:

"Alvin Beauboeuf stated that DA investigator Lynn Loisel told him 'his boss' would see that he would get a job and \$3,000 if he made statements they were seeking; that Garrison was aware of the offer; that Loisel and another DA investigator, Louis Ivon, threatened him with physical harm and defaming disclosures if he did not deny the attempted bribery."

Garrison replied to this by again stating that a police department investigation had proved the bribery charges untrue.

"When an investigation by the police department revealed that the bribe attempt claim was fraudulent and that a supposed supporting tape had been altered, Mr. Kohn was strangely silent," Garrison said.

Assistant Supt. of Police Presly J. Trosclair said last week that an intensive investigation failed to produce evidence that the two investigators were guilty of either bribery or intimidation.

LIE DETECTOR TEST

The MCC letter also referred to NBC's claim that Perry Raymond Russo, the state's main

witness up to this point, failed to pass a lie detector test.

Russo, a Baton Rouge insurance man, testified at Shaw's preliminary hearing that he heard Shaw, Oswald, and David W. Ferrie plot Kennedy's death.

Russo, in a press conference following the NBC show, said efforts to administer lie detector tests had failed on two occasions because no conclusive reactions could be obtained from him on test-pattern questions.

The MCC is asking Gremillion to name a select committee composed of the deans of the law schools of Louisiana State University, Tulane and Loyola universities, the presidents of the Louisiana, New Orleans and Criminal Courts Bar Associations, and the presidents of the Public Affairs Research Council, the Council for a Better Louisiana and the State League of Women Voters.

The group in turn should nominate three "exceptionally qualified lawyers" who would become special assistant attorneys general and conduct the investigation of Garrison's office.

Gremillion said in Baton Rouge he has received no communications from the MCC and knows "nothing about it."

SUEZ CANAL RUNS NORTH AND SOUTH CAIRO

The Suez canal runs almost due north and south for 104.5 miles of routing through marshy lakes and desert areas.