

Sheridan Raps DA's 'Interest'

Alleges Garrison Seeks 'Personal Gain'

A television newsman charged with public bribery alleged Wednesday Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's "personal interest" in his "future political career" and his "financial gain and profit" from the presidential assassination probe should disqualify him from handling the case.

National Broadcasting Co. newsman Walter Sheridan made such allegations in a supplemental motion to quash an Orleans Parish Grand Jury subpoena and to have Garrison recused as Grand Jury adviser. The motion was filed by attorney Milton E. Brener in Criminal District Court.

At 10 a. m. Thursday Judge Bernard J. Bagert will rule on all motions filed by the defense for Sheridan, accused of public bribery following a one-hour NBC special he produced critical of the DA's investigation into the death of President John F. Kennedy.

Sunday Garrison's office filed pleadings challenging the effort to have the DA removed as Grand Jury adviser and to dismiss the Sheridan subpoena.

SUBPENA USE

In the supplemental motion, Sheridan averred that Garrison is suppressing evidence, failing and refusing to investigate allegations of wrongdoing by DA staff members and using the Grand Jury subpoena to punish and harass, as well as exploiting his position as Grand Jury legal adviser.

Sheridan claimed these circumstances were a "result of

a personal interest in the cause, to wit, the assassination investigation, which is in conflict with the fair and impartial administration of justice!"

Specifically, the NBC newsman said many public statements of Garrison claiming to have "solved" the assassination "without question" between Feb. 24 and July 15 of this year have tended to place at issue "the sound judgment of the District Attorney, his judicial temperament, his sense of responsibility and his reputation as a prosecutor and fair-minded public official."

Sheridan maintained further about Garrison: "His keen personal interest in vindicating his positive public utterances, in which utterances he has staked his future and his reputation, and his keen personal interest in preserving his reputation in the particulars above-mentioned, are at odds with and are inconsistent with a fair, impartial quest for justice or search for truth."

Sheridan also averred that on or about June 14 of this year Marj Sahl, a nationally known entertainer, and Mark Lane, a critic of the Warren Commission, held a public meeting at the University of California at Los Angeles "for the purpose of raising money for Jim Garrison for use in the investigation."

APPEAL MADE

He also claimed that Sahl made a similar public appeal for funds a couple of days later at the Red Fox Night Club in Los Angeles.

The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald

was the lone assassin of President Kennedy, and Garrison is seeking to prove an assassination conspiracy and has charged retired New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw with plotting to kill Kennedy. The Grand Jury indicted Shaw on such a count and his trial is pending.

Sheridan alleged that "financial gain and profit have resulted and continue to result to the District Attorney in the form of funds donated by groups, including particularly, but not limited to, a group of New Orleans citizens styled 'Truth and Consequences' and funds received from various newspapers, magazines and oth-

er publications for materials furnished by the District Attorney for publication."

HAS INTEREST

"The District Attorney therefore has an additional personal interest in the cause other than the fair and impartial administration of justice," Sheridan concluded.

The NBC newsman claimed further that charges filed by the DA against "one Manuel Garcia" for the alleged sale of narcotics "are completely untrue, without any basis in fact whatever, and no evidence exists of such violation."

Sheridan maintained the charges against Garcia were for purposes of "questioning in connection with his (Garrison's) probe and constitutes a further example of the gross misuse of the judicial processes by the



District Attorney in furtherance of the alleged investigation."

The NBC newsman said Garrison's office is discriminating against the network's affiliate WDSU-TV and its personnel "by refusing to admit them to press

conferences, by repeatedly using insulting language to its personnel, and otherwise using the power of his office to punish" the station for "public criticism of his conduct as a public official."