

NEWSMAN MUST TESTIFY

8/7/67

Sheridan Appeal Denied

Walter Sheridan, television newsmen accused by DA Jim Garrison of attempting to bribe one of the DA's assassination probe witnesses, today lost his appeal for State Supreme Court support in his effort to avoid testifying before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

The appeal was made to the high court July 27 after Sheridan lost a lower court round in his legal fight to block a subpoena by the grand jury.

Today, the Supreme Court said that Sheridan's "application is denied. The showing is not sufficient to warrant the exercise of our supervisory jurisdiction at this time."

SHERIDAN WAS charged with attempting to bribe state witness Perry Raymond Russo so after the reporter took part in the preparation of an hour-long documentary televised on the NBC news department.

The NBC news department employee has entered a \$5,000 bond.

His lawyers have challenged that the subpoena is a form of harassment by Garrison's office.

THE STATE Supreme Court also today denied a petition filed by Sheridan.

who refused to repeat before the grand jury charges made on the NBC program. Garrison, a convicted burglar who calls himself John the Baptist, said on the program that one of Garrison's witnesses had lied during a preliminary hearing for businessman Clay L. Shaw, accused of participating in a conspiracy to murder President Kennedy.

his story before the grand jury was charged with contempt. He asked the court to review the content of the charge and today the court ordered the district judge to refer the DA's office to file return on Garrison's petition no later than Sept. 1.

another front in Garrison's controversial investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the former New Orleans nightclub owner who is wanted for questioning by Garrison, said he will return voluntarily to testify here if he will agree to have his mind read under hypnosis by Gordon Novel, the former New Orleans nightclub owner who succeeded in getting all of the DA's witnesses to have him read their minds from the Grand Jury room. He said he had furnished his office with copies of the tapes.

THE GRAND JURY NOVEMBER 1963 Orleans witness appeared in the Orleans Parish Grand Jury room in March, said that Garrison had asked him to accept a bribe to testify in the trial of the novel.

Now that your request of \$80,000 have been rejected by law to recognition in the sincere interest of justice, I hereby make you my final offer to testify before your New Orleans Grand Jury on all matters pertinent and impertinent to your office and your current investigation into your alleged John F. Kennedy assassination conspiracy and its related prosecution.

"This proposal is made in view of your past actions and past actions of grand jury and the number and strange backgrounds and character of witnesses for the prosecution in the cases of the State of Louisiana vs. Dean Andrews Esquire, and Clay Shaw, Richard Townley, Walter Sheridan, myself, and others.

Louisiana due to your business in not sending me or factual extradition papers to Ohio for my return the allotted legal time in months, and as I you would like the opportunity to vindicate your office of my to date unproven charges of fraudulent prosecution and misuse of public office I submit my one and only offer for a simple term for your consideration:

before your New Orleans Grand Jury on any question relative to your legal or moral charges against Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw, Frank Ferrie, Sergio Arcene, Dean Andrews, Layton

Richards, Walter Sheridan, Richard Townley, NBC, the CIA or myself, with the sole provision that in the interest of your often-stated desire for unperjured "legally scientific objective truth and justice," I be administered by your Dr. Esmond Fadden (with prior clinical training and medical supervision) the same truth serum and-or hypnosis given by you to Mr. Perry Raymond Russo and that while under the influence of those objects, scientific veracity of my statements and while on your polygraph, I give answers to yourself on any and all questions while under oath in the presence of your grand jury, and that these tests and their results be made part of the official record.

"MR. GARRISON, it is my most earnest desire to state this matter of a conspiracy to assassinate John F. Kennedy in the United States of America into either fact or fraud, fiction and fabrication.

As I have a long vacation, you have 72 hours to accept or reject this final offer to testify as your most important material witness."

other probe developments, subpoenas were going out today to witnesses for the state and defense in the grand jury trial of attorney Dean Andrews Jr., to begin here Wednesday in the court of Orleans Parish District Judge Frank J. Shea.

Attorney Sam Monk Zelden, defense counsel for Andrews, today asked for subpoenas to be sent out to two witnesses.

The subpoenas are being issued to David L. Chandler, Gov. Nicholls, a reporter for Life magazine, and Sam Rife, a reporter for the New Orleans Times-Picayune.

in its attempt to return Warren Commission attorney Wesley J. Leibeler to New Orleans for a trial. District court judge at Lebanon, Vt., denied the request after Leibeler had had personal business conflicting with the trial. Leibeler had declined to come to New Orleans voluntarily.

New Orleans States Item 8/7/67