

DA142

HEARING NL--THREATS

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 14 (AP)--AN ORGANIZER OF A GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN WHO ARE PRIVATELY FINANCING DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S PROBE OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION SAID TODAY SEVERAL OF ITS MEMBERS HAD RECEIVED THREATENING PHONE CALLS.

JOSEPH M. RAULT JR. SAID THE CALLS COULD HAVE BEEN FROM CRANKS.

"I HOPE SO," HE ADDED. "BUT WE'VE GOT A LOT OF NUTS."

THE BASE GROUP NUMBERED 50 BUSINESSMEN WHO, RAULT SAID, AGREED TO DONATE \$100 A MONTH EACH FOR AT LEAST THREE MONTHS. RAULT IS A WEALTHY, INDEPENDENT OIL PRODUCER.

ASKED HOW LARGE IS THE TOTAL OF CONTRIBUTIONS, HE REPLIED, "I DON'T KNOW, BUT THE MONEY AND CHECKS ARE STILL COMING IN."

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