

MCC ASKS LA. PROBE OF GARRISON TACTICS

The New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission today called on Louisiana Attorney Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion to launch an exhaustive investigation into the manner in which Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison is conducting his Kennedy death plot probe.

In an eight-page letter to the attorney general, the crime commission said it wants Gremillion to select a blue-ribbon committee to name a special panel of three investigators.

The MCC letter, signed by Managing Director Aaron Kohn and President E. C. Upton Jr., was a reaction to a National Broadcasting Co. program Monday night.

THE LETTER called attention to the hour-long NBC show and declared:

"If accusations broadcast throughout the nation on Mon-

day 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.

"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 reacted to the network program by asserting that NBC is "using the big lie" to "torpedo the attempt to get at the facts surrounding the President's death."

He has charged that NBC newsmen interfered with state witnesses and offered them

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inducements to appear on the nationally-televised program.

CALLING ATTENTION to the NBC special report, the letter from Kohn and Upton said:

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

"1. John Chancler, convicted burglar and current prison inmate stated that:

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

"b. District attorney investigators Louis Ivon and Lynn Loisel took him from 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 5-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."

Bundy testified at the preliminary hearing for Shaw, who is charged with complicity in Kennedy's death, that he saw Shaw and accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald together on the New Orleans lakefront in the fall of 1963. He said he saw Shaw give Oswald money.

The Cancler accusation originally was carried in the New York Times. Cancler had several times told varying versions of his story to New Orleans newsmen. Cancler declined to sign a sworn statement.

SHAW, A 54-YEAR-OLD retired businessman, was bound over for trial after the preliminary hearing. He is free on \$10,000 bond. Garrison charged that he conspired with Oswald, the late David W. Ferrie and Oswald's even-

tual killer, Jack Ruby, to murder Kennedy at Dallas in 1963.

Shaw is the only living member of the group. Ferrie, a onetime airline pilot, was found dead at his apartment here five days after the Garrison investigation became public knowledge.

The MCC letter noted that NBC commentator Frank McGee said the network news department has information that Bundy was given a lie detector test and flunked it before taking the witness stand.

M'GEE SAID Bundy was placed on the stand by Garrison despite protests from the DA's chief assistant, Charles Ray Ward.

Other major points in the MCC letter cover a number of allegations repeatedly made against Garrison and his inquiry, including one which has been refuted by the New Orleans Police Department.

"Alvin Beauboeuf," the crime commission letter said, "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."

A REPORT issued last week by Asst. Police Supt. P. J. Trosclair said an intensive investigation failed to turn up information which indicated the two detectives were guilty

of either bribery or intimidation.

Another point cited in the letter was NBC's allegation that star witness Perry Russo, who testified he overheard Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie plotting Kennedy's death, failed to pass a lie detector test.

Russo held a press conference Tuesday and denied the NBC charge. He said he was too nervous to take a polygraph test on two occasions and that no electronic evaluation could be made of his statements. Russo's story was backed up both by Asst. DA Andrew Sciambra and Leonard Gurvich, a private investigator who was in charge of the polygraph test.

In its letter, MCC asked 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 Public Affairs Research Council, the Council for a Better Louisiana and the State League of Women Voters.

MCC WANTS the group to act as a nominating committee to select three "exceptionally qualified lawyers" who would become special assistant attorneys general and conduct the investigation of Garrison's office.

"We urge you to recognize that this matter has importance transcending personal and partisan political considerations," MCC told the attorney general.

Reached at Baton Rouge, Gremillion said he has received no communication from MCC and knows "nothing about it."