

SHERIDAN GAINS JURY REPRIEVE

The Supreme Court of Louisiana today temporarily halted Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's attempt to bring television newsman Walter Sheridan before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

The stay order came literally at the 11th hour as Sheridan's subpoena to appear before the grand jury had been stayed by Criminal District Court Judge Bernard J. Bagert only until noon today.

SHERIDAN'S attorneys received the news at 11 a.m.

Yesterday, Sheridan lost a lower court round in his legal battle, fought to prevent his appearing before the grand jury on accusations of trying to bribe key Kennedy assassination probe witness Perry R. Russo of Baton Rouge.

The high court's order read, in part:

"The exact ruling of the district judge has not yet been prepared and submitted to us for review.

"Under the circumstances, and in view of the showing made in the application, this court is unable to pass upon same before noon on this date:

"FOR THESE reasons, it is ordered that all proceedings involved in this application be, and they are hereby, ordered stayed until the further orders of this court."

"The district judge and the

district attorney are hereby ordered to file in this court returns to the application of relator on or before Aug. 8, 1967."

Grand Jury foreman Albert V. LaBiche had called a jury meeting for 2 p. m. today to hear testimony from the National Broadcasting Co. reporter in the event the stay had not been granted.

Sheridan, a former Senate Rackets Committee investigator and onetime Justice Department official under then Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy, was arraigned in Judge Thomas Brahney's court yesterday on charges of public bribery.

Russo testified that he overheard 54-year-old Clay L. Shaw of New Orleans participate in plotting the murder of President John F. Kennedy. Shaw is free on \$10,000 bond awaiting trial on con-

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spiracy charges.

Sheridan entered a plea of innocence yesterday. He is free on \$5,000 bond. Judge Brahney gave his attorneys 30 days to file special pleadings.

THE CHARGES AGAINST

Sheridan grew out of a June 19 NBC program which charged that Garrison's case against Shaw is based in part on perjured testimony. The program said Russo failed a lie detector test before he went on the stand during a preliminary hearing.

Sheridan was subpoenaed by the grand jury when he appeared here last week to answer the public bribery charges. His lawyers have charged the subpoena constitutes harassment.

In three other rulings yesterday, Judge Bagert tossed out a Sheridan plea to have Garrison removed as legal adviser to the grand jury; refused to permit Sheridan's attorney to accompany him into the jury room, and said the foreman is not compelled to announce in advance what questions will be asked.