

31 Oct 67

NS STATES-ITEM

Kohn Quizzed Several Hours By Jeff Jury

Metropolitan Crime Commission director Aaron M. Kohn was closeted with the Jefferson Parish Grand Jury for several hours today.

The jury is investigating allegations of organized crime influences in the parish.

Kohn entered the grand jury room at 9 a. m. It was Kohn's second appearance before the jury in its current investigation.

When Kohn came out at 12:35, he was accompanied by a member of the grand jury. They went into the office of District Attorney Frank H. Langridge.

The grand jury member came out of the office with Langridge and the member went into the jury room.

Kohn commented: "I would like to say that after five hours—two hours last week and three hours today—before this grand jury, my faith in the grand jury system has been reaffirmed."

The MCC director said that the jury has asked him to be available for future sessions.

Asst. Dist. Attorney James Quaid said he thought that Kohn would be the only witness called today.

Yesterday, seven persons, including Parish President Thomas F. Doneion, went before the jury.

OTHERS TESTIFYING
were Mrs. Alma Harris, wife of Grand Isle Mayor Mickey Harris; Jefferson finance director Edward P. LaBruyere and water director Peter-J. Russo; contractor Joe Johnson and two former parish employes identified as Joe Comeaux and Harold Burkart.

Doneion testified about a half hour yesterday and word was then sent to Merlin Hudson, Doneion's administrative assistant, who had waited until 5 p.m., that his testimony would not be needed. Hudson and Doneion were both kept waiting all day last week before being dismissed without testifying.

LABRUYERE, who went before the body with two folders of finance department records, testified an hour and a half. Russo stayed inside 20 minutes.

Mrs. Harris claimed the investigation is political.

Comeaux and Burkart are both former employes of the parish roads and bridges department.