

DA Hits Grey, MCC As Stumbling Blocks

District Attorney Jim Garrison charges that the Metropolitan Crime Commission has done more to impede law enforcement in Orleans Parish than to improve it.

Responding to statements by MCC president Dr. J. D. Grey and managing director Aaron M. Kohn, the DA said, "These two worthies have issued a press release claiming that my office has prevented an inquiry into organized crime.

"The fact is," Garrison said, "that my office called before the grand jury every conceivable relevant witness to such an inquiry — including Gov. John J. McKeithen, Carlos Marcello and Thomas Burbank, state police superintendent."

The jury, he said, just has completed "the most intensive inquiry of recent years into organized crime."

GARRISON ADDED that the only persons who refused "to testify fully" were Life Magazine reporter David Chandler and Kohn.

"The truth is," the DA said, "that there has been great progress against systematic vice in New Orleans in recent years. For the first time in the history of this city, every lottery owner has been sent to the penitentiary — where no one had ever been before.

"For the first time," he said, "an effective drive against loan shark operations has been conducted in New Orleans.

"IT IS A MATTER of common knowledge that the intensive co-operation of the New Orleans Police Department against narcotics, prostitution and handbooks has been exceedingly effective . . . that the present district attorney's office has increased the percentage of convictions in every category of vice."

Garrison said that the present DA's office never has lost a major case in six years, "nor has a single defendant ever walked out of the courtroom with an acquittal in a murder case in the last six years.

"Not one of these major improvements in law enforcement has been obtained with the help of Mr. Kohn. As a matter of fact, Mr. Kohn and the Metropolitan Crime Commission have not made any discernable con-

Kohn and Dr. Grey, "the new team", are "strong on imagination and, with a little polishing, well may turn out to be one of the hottest acts since the old days of vaudeville."

tribution whatsoever to the major improvements of law enforcement which have occurred in New Orleans in recent years.

"TO THE CONTRARY," Garrison said, "the MCC has been a consistent morale problem to the men engaged in law enforcement here and has, if anything, been the major obstacle to progress in law enforcement."

Garrison summed up his attack on the MCC by saying that