

Reacts to 'Probe' Call

DA Answers Kohn: 'Take Claim to Jury'

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison reacted to the Metropolitan Crime Commission's call for a state investigation of his office today by challenging MCC Managing Director Aaron Kohn to take his charges before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

"I will request the foreman to call him," the DA added.

Garrison, replying to the commission's letter to Atty. Gen. Jack Gremlion, charged that Kohn "knows better" than to believe the "current fiction" carried by the National Broadcasting Co.

"BUT," SAID the DA, "he has never been known to let the truth stand in the way of his great pronouncements."

"Strangely enough," Garrison noted, "Kohn made a similar pronouncement recently when he said that my office had 'bribed' Alvin Beauboeuf, a possible witness in the case.

"When an investigation by the police department revealed that the bribe attempt claim was fraudulent and that a supposed supporting tape had been altered, Mr. Kohn was strangely silent."

GARRISON SAID "Kohn has to know that in five years my office has never had a

single conviction reversed because of improper methods.

"Nevertheless," the DA said, "the word from Washington is that our investigation into the assassination of John Kennedy has to be stopped at all costs.

"In order to accomplish this, I am to be pictured as using sinister methods."

THE DA SAID he would ask Foreman Albert V. LaBiche to call Kohn before the grand jury so that he can present his charges there.

"If what he says is true, then it is his duty to appear before the grand jury."

Noting the MCC call for a blue ribbon committee to appoint a team of three investigators, Garrison said:

"It happens that we already have machinery for inquiring into wrongdoing on the part of public officials. This organization is made up of citizens without any political commit-

ments of any kind and it is known as the grand jury."

Terming Kohn the "unelected, self-designated watchdog of the community," the DA concluded:

"Actually, I really feel sorry for Mr. Kohn. The watchdog of the community has been sniffing at so many bad fire hydrants that his nose has finally gone bad on him."