

7-20-67

DA Seeks Sheridan Hearing for Monday

The Orleans Parish district attorney's office will ask for an open hearing Monday to determine whether National Broadcasting Co. investigator Walter Sheridan has to go before the Orleans Parish grand jury.

Assistant DA James L. Alcock today said he will file an answer tomorrow to Sheridan's motion filed yesterday seeking, among other things, to quash the subpoena requiring him to appear before the jury.

Judge Bernard J. Bagert yesterday put off Sheridan's appearance until a hearing could be held on the motion.

Originally, Sheridan was subpoenaed to go before the jury yesterday, ostensibly to repeat under oath NBC's charge against Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination plot probe.

SHERIDAN WAS a prime source of the information used on an NBC hour-long broadcast last month in which Garrison's office was charged with a number of instances of misconduct, principally bribing and threatening witnesses.

Two weeks ago, Garrison retaliated by charging Sheridan with public bribery and intimidation.

When Sheridan went to the Criminal Courts Building Tuesday to post a \$5,000 cash bond, he was spotted by members of the DA's staff and served with the grand jury subpoena.

In the motion yesterday, Sheridan alleged that the subpoena "can only be an attempt by the district attorney to back up his bill of information with an indictment," and that it was issued merely "to coerce and intimidate" Sheridan.

The five-point motion also asked for a hearing to determine the legality of the makeup of the current grand jury.

IRONICALLY, the motion will be heard by Judge Bagert, who personally picked the 12

members of the current jury, whose six-month term expires at the end of August.

The motion charged that Garrison is "subverting the historical purpose of the grand jury" by using it for his own purpose.

Garrison's opponents in the probe have repeatedly stated that the current jurors are "in Garrison's pocket," and yesterday the DA's former aide, William Gurvich, said that the "hand picked" jury "came right out of the locker room of the NOAC" (New Orleans Athletic Club).

Gurvich, who left the DA's office a month ago, firing charges of misconduct at Garrison, showed up at the courts building yesterday as the Sheridan motion was being filed, "just to see what happens."

Judge Bagert said he did not set a specific time for the hearing, but would wait to see how much time the DA's office would require.

Asst. Dist. Atty. James L. Alcock said he would ask for the hearing "in the next couple of days," probably tomorrow. He indicated that if Sheridan's attorneys lose the motion, the NBC man will be ordered to testify next Wednesday at the next grand jury meeting.

JUDGE BAGERT said he would make no comment yesterday concerning the makeup of the current jury, adding that he will apparently be called upon as a witness later to testify concerning his method of picking the jurors.

The judge said he feels he will be asked to take the stand

when attorneys for Clay L. Shaw—the only man charged with the alleged assassination plot—file a new motion to quash Shaw's grand jury indictment.

Shaw's attorneys have also indicated they plan to contest the picking of jurors.