

Jury Calls Gurvich, Prisoner to Testify

William Gurvich and John "the Baptist" Cancler were subpoenaed today to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Wednesday in connection with District Attorney Jim Garrison's probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The subpoena for Gurvich, a former Garrison investigative aide in the probe, was sent to his home address, 4501 Cleveland pl., Metairie.

Cancler is an inmate of Parish Prison, awaiting court action after a burglary conviction.

Gurvich defected from the DA's office a few weeks ago, after he paid a visit to U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in New York City. He returned to New Orleans, charging there was no basis for Garrison's investigation. He voluntarily testified before the grand jury last Wednesday.

In a recent National Broadcasting Co. TV special, Cancler said he was asked by a member of the DA's staff to break into the French Quarter house of Clay L. Shaw, who has been charged with conspiracy in the Kennedy slaying.

THE SUBPENAS THIS morning were ordered by Assistant DA Richard V. Burnes.

Burnes said that while subpoenas are usually issued by the foreman of the grand jury, Article 439 of the Louisiana

(Turn to Page 19, Column 1)

Continued from Front Page

Code of Criminal Procedure gives the DA authority to issue them.

Asked why Gurvich had been subpoenaed, Burnes said, "He appeared voluntarily last week, but since he's not beating on the door any longer to get in, we decided to issue a subpoena just to see whether he really has any information.

"This time we want the grand jury to hear him out on a put up or shut up basis to draw out the evidence, if he has any."

ASKED WHETHER GURVICH had given significant information to the jury last Wednesday, Burnes replied "I really wish I could tell you about that, but unfortunately the secrecy of the grand jury must be preserved."

He said the private detective was being subpoenaed rather than asked to appear voluntarily "to insure his appearance. Without a subpoena, there's no guarantee that he would be available."

Cancler is awaiting a decision by Criminal District Judge Oliver P. Schulingkamp on a motion for a new trial based on another man's testimony that he, not Cancler, committed the burglary of which Cancler is accused.

The alleged confession was made subsequent to Cancler's conviction in February.

BURNES SAID THE GRAND jury subpoena is "totally unconnected with Cancler's burglary case now pending in court."

"He's just another person who professes to have knowledge of the case. This is a put up or shut up operation with him, too. He has never testified under oath to the charges he made over nationwide television. We want to give him that chance."

Asked whether in his opinion either Cancler or Gurvich would be able to supply the grand jury with any significant information, Burnes replied "positively not."

Later today, Perry Raymond Russo, star witness in a preliminary hearing for Shaw last March, showed up at Garrison's office.

Russo said he had been asked to appear by Assistant District Attorney Andrew Sciambra but did not know why.

Russo complained to a reporter that adverse publicity resulting from the investigation had affected his personal life.

"I even got thrown out of a baseball league because of it," said Russo.

He remained in Garrison's inner office for over an hour.