

Vow Protection For Witness in Bombing Case

A New Orleans law student who says he fled to Ohio because he feared Ku Klux Klan violence has been assured full police protection by Gov. John J. McKeithen if he will return to testify in a bombing case.

J. R. Kimble, 24, of 7003 Vicksburg st., claims he witnessed a KKK plot to bomb the home of labor leader Victor Bussie in Baton Rouge.

Kimble, or a man of the same name, has been in the news in two other occasions recently. A Jules R. Kimble was one of a group attempting to buy the St. Louis Hawks pro basketball franchise, but proved to lack enough money. Also, a Jules R. Kimble was arrested here recently on several charges.

Kimble called the States-Item yesterday and said three men met in his New Orleans home and planned the July bombing of the homes of Bussie and a Negro woman teacher in Port Allen.

"MY LIFE is in danger," said Kimble. "If they guarantee me protection, then I'll testify."

Kimble told the States-Item he fled the state, fearing for his life, because he was not satisfied with the protection offered by state police. He said he was calling from a pay phone in Cincinnati.

Gov. McKeithen said the missing witness has been promised "all the protection he needs day and night."

Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher of East Baton Rouge Parish said he will provide protection for Kimble if he comes into the parish.

PITCHER and State Police Supt. Thomas Burbank confirmed they are seeking Kimble as a missing witness in the case.

Kimble told the States-Item that three men met in his home in July and worked out the details to bomb the two homes.

"They wanted to kill Bussie," Kimble declared. He said they also wanted to kill the Negro woman, Mrs. Viola Logan, a retired teacher who had been active in civil rights demonstrations.

The bombings occurred

See WITNESS—Page 8

about an hour apart the night of July 19. No one was hurt.

BUSSIE, president of the state AFL-CIO, had spoken critically of the KKK that afternoon while giving testimony before a committee of the Legislature considering setting up a special commission to probe labor-management racketeering in the state.

Kimble said he did not go with the three men to bomb the homes. He said two of the men left their cars at his home in New Orleans that night and rode to Baton Rouge with a third man.

He said he talked with a state police detective who advised no protection could be guaranteed. Burbank denied this.

Pitcher says he has a grand jury subpoena out for Kimble and his home in New Orleans has been under surveillance for a week.

The name of Kimble came up recently in two other instances: in early January a Jules R. Kimble attempted to join a syndicate seeking to bring the St. Louis Hawks' National Basketball Association franchise to New Orleans. At that time Kimble told a St. Louis newspaper he was committed to pay at least half of the \$3.8 million purchase price.

Also, a Jules R. Kimble was arrested on three charges by the New Orleans Police Department as recently as July 26. He was arrested for aggravated assault, false impersonation and illegally carrying a concealed weapon.