

NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM 13 SEPT 1967

Jury's Probe Into Mob Links Set Tomorrow

The Orleans Parish Grand Jury will begin an investigation into organized crime in New Orleans tomorrow, when it will hear testimony of Aaron Kohn, managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission.

Kohn and 15 other top MCC officials were subpoenaed yesterday at the request of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

Garrison asked the jury to conduct its own investigation of organized crime in New Orleans after an article in Life magazine charged last week racketeering is booming in the city.

THE LIFE ARTICLE stated that rackets figure Carlos Marcello exerts a great deal of influence in the city and hinted at a possible relationship between Garrison and Marcello.

Immediately after the story was published, Kohn announced that Life had gotten much of its information from the Crime Commission.

Kohn and Garrison have long feuded over the question of organized crime in New Orleans, the MCC chief charging it flourishes and the DA denying the charges.

GARRISON DENIED the Life charges yesterday and said the Grand Jury is the proper body for an investigation.

Garrison said he will resign as district attorney if the grand jury decides that the charges are true.

He said he will ask the jury to subpoena every person mentioned in the Life article in ref-

erence to New Orleans—himself, any member of the staff, and author (Sandy Smith) and all other reporters or writers connected with the story.

GARRISON SAID he has asked the grand jury to look into every possible area where there might be "systematic violation of the law or where public officials might be in collusion with mobsters or racketeers."

Charging that the article was unfair in its presentation, Garrison said:

"The city of New Orleans has been pictured by inference as a city of mobster corruption, as a capital city of the criminal empire of the Mafia. In my considered judgment, this picture is not only completely untrue, but a great disservice has been done to the state of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans."

THE MATTER merits a full probe due to the nationwide publicity, the DA said.

"Either organized crime is rampant here, as the MCC periodically infers, or it is under control. Let us settle this question once and for all," Garrison continued.

"If organized crime is flourishing, then I will resign as district attorney and the MCC can recommend to the city of New Orleans a district attorney who can see the widespread syndicate operations as clearly as Mr. Kohn.

"IF, ON THE other hand, it is found that Mr. Kohn's

charges—which are now receiving national publicity—are untrue, then he should resign so that we have an end to false charges."

Garrison said the officers of the crime commission were called so that the jury could have all the evidence available.

Subpenas were issued for:

C. Alvin Bertel Jr., Phillip L. Frank Sr., Robert D. Hess, M. Hepburn Many, William I. Monaghan, H. Eustis Reily, Eli W. Tullis, E. C. Upton Jr., William C. Penick, C. Allen Favrot, Warren K. Waters, Joseph C. Simon Jr., C. C. Clifton Jr. and Everett M. Scranton.