

Assault Trial Of Marcello to Open Monday

(Special to the States-Item)

HOUSTON — New Orleans rackets figure Carlos Marcello, 58, goes on trial here Monday on a charge of assaulting an FBI agent.

The case was transferred to the southern district of Texas earlier this year on a change of venue sought by Marcello because of widespread publicity he had received in the New Orleans area.

FOLLOWING a mistrial May 29, when a federal court jury in Laredo, Texas, failed to reach a verdict, the case was returned to Houston amid great secrecy.

U. S. District Judge John V. Singleton Jr., who is presiding over the Marcello trial, has put a tight lid on government and defense attorneys, court personnel and others, who have been ordered not to discuss the case with reporters. Even the judge's secretary would not divulge what time jury selection was to begin today.

Marcello's attorneys, Jack Wasserman of Washington, D. C., and Michael A. Maroun of Shreveport, have kept their client from reporters here and have repeatedly asked for a court order barring the press from using "derogatory remarks" in stories about Marcello.

Judge Singleton complied last week when he met with editors of Houston's two daily newspapers and won an agreement that the papers would not mention Marcello's underworld connections prior to selection of a jury.

Marcello is under \$5,000 bond in the assault case. If convicted, he could receive up to three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.