

Crime Panel Hears Ward Campaigner

Ernest Williams, 4016 S. Derbigny, a volunteer worker in Charles R. Ward's campaign for district attorney, appeared under subpoena and testified for 40 minutes yesterday before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in its continuing investigation of organized crime.

Two federal officials, U.S. Attorney Louis C. LaCour, and Robert E. Rightmyer, special agent in charge of the New Orleans field office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, declined invitations to appear before the jury.

Williams' subpoena directed him to appear at 11 a.m. He did not enter the jury room, however, until shortly after 4 p.m. when the jury returned from lunch.

Williams told reporters he is helping Ward's campaign on a voluntary basis. Ward confirmed this, but said he did not know why Williams was summoned, and Williams had no comment when he left the jury room shortly after 5 p.m.

The jury itself recessed shortly before 6 p. m. and made no report. The district attorney's office was represented by first assistant Dist. Atty. James L. Alcock and two assistants, William R. Alford and John P. Volz.

Williams was represented by attorney Jerome M. Winsberg, who waited outside while his client testified, also waiting outside during the testimony was attorney Milton Masinter.

Masinter and another attorney were indicted following Ward's resignation from the district attorney's office to run against DA Jim Garrison. The charge is corrupt influencing of the former first assistant in Garrison's office in connection with bail bond forfeitures.

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