

STATES-ITEM

JANUARY 13, 1970

Lafitte Trial Postponed Indefinitely

The trial of a former New Orleans club executive on charges of bilking a Maine financier out of more than \$300,000 has been postponed indefinitely in Boston.

Jean Pierre Lafitte, 65, formerly manager and executive chef of the Plimsoll Club atop New Orleans International Trade Mart, is charged specifically in U.S. District Court at

Boston with defrauding Ralph L. Loomis, now deceased, by encouraging him to invest money in African diamond mining companies organized by Lafitte.

Lafitte was arrested in New Orleans last month and voluntarily returned to Boston for trial. Lafitte pleaded innocent to the charges when arraigned and was released on \$7,000 bail.

The fraud is alleged to have

occurred in 1962. The government said Lafitte did not appear for trial in 1962 and instead toured Africa, Europe and the Bahamas for five years. He returned to the U.S. in 1967 and took the job at the Plimsoll Club under the name of Jean Martin, the government says.

Spain has decided to adopt the German PAL color television system.

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