

THIRTY-SIX

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Tyranny Charged**Garrison Ouster
Asked by MCC**

By RAY LINCOLN

Charging District Attorney Jim Garrison with "continuing tyranny and corruption," the Metropolitan Crime Commission declared today that he should resign or, if he refuses, Gov. John J. McKeithen should initiate removal proceedings.

The MCC called Garrison's arrest yesterday on charges of accepting graft to protect illegal pinball operations "just another in a long series of evidences that the Orleans Parish district attorney's office has been used to prosecute the innocent and to protect the guilty."

In a prepared statement, MCC president C. Alvin Bertel Jr. and managing director Aaron M. Kohn said that they have written to Garrison and McKeithen urging the DA's removal, but Bertel acknowledged that such action is unlikely.

THE COMMISSION "is deeply concerned," the statement said, "about the continuing failure of state officials, charged with constitutional responsibilities, to act as a check against such abuses of power as have been repeatedly exhibited by Mr. Garrison and his office.

"Beginning in 1967 our crime commission made public requests upon Gov. McKeithen and state Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion to perform their duties in a manner which would bring to an end Garrison's inattention to the prosecutor's real obligations, and his obsessions which have resulted in serious

injury and tragedy for many people.

"Article nine of the Louisiana Constitution provides that Mr. Garrison is subject to removal from office for high crimes and misdemeanors, incompetency, corruption, favoritism, extortion, oppression in office, or for gross misconduct. Based upon Mr. Garrison's record, it is believed that he has been guilty of most, if not all, of these offenses against the public and the constitution."

Garrison also may be removed, the statement continued, by impeachment in the House of Representatives with trial in the Senate. But a less "cumbersome and burdensome process," the MCC said would be civil court action initiated by the attorney general, at his own discretion, upon written request from the governor, or by petition of 25 citizens.

BERTEL SAID the commission is considering filing court action, but first it will "again put to a test the willingness of Gov. McKeithen and Atty. Gen. Gremillion to discharge their duties. If again it is found that those duties have been entrusted to irresponsible men it will become clear that only direct citizen action through the courts can protect New Orleans from continuing tyranny and corruption on the part of its district attorney."

Bertel said Garrison should resign even if he is found innocent of the current federal charges against him, because he said there are numerous other reasons for his removal.