

NEWSMAN MUST TESTIFY

Sheridan Appeal Denied

Walter Sheridan, the television newsman accused by DA Jim Garrison of attempting to bribe one of the DA's assassination probe witnesses, today lost his bid for State Supreme Court support in his effort to avoid testifying before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

The appeal was made to the high court July 27 after Sheridan lost a lower court round in his legal fight to block his subpoena by the grand jury.

Today, the Supreme Court said that Sheridan's "application is denied. The showing is not sufficient to warrant the exercise of our supervisory jurisdiction at this time."

SHERIDAN WAS charged with attempting to bribe state witness Perry Raymond Russo after the reporter took part in the preparation of an hour-long documentary televised by the National Broadcasting Co., which was highly critical of

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Baptist, said on the program that one of Garrison's witnesses had lied during a preliminary hearing for businessman Clay L. Shaw, accused of participating in a conspiracy to murder President Kennedy.

When Cancler refused to repeat his story before the jury, he was charged with contempt. He asked the high court to review the contempt charge and today the court ordered the district judge and the DA's office to file returns to Cancler's petition no later than Sept. 1.

On another front in Garrison's controversial investigation, Gordon Novel, the former New Orleans nightclub owner who is wanted for questioning by Garrison, said today he will return voluntarily to testify here if the DA will agree to have him questioned under hypnosis.

Garrison and his Kennedy investigation.

The NBC news department employe has entered a plea of innocent, and is free on \$5,000 bond.

Sheridan was subpoenaed by the grand jury when he came

Novel, who successfully evaded all of the DA's attempts to have him returned to New Orleans from Columbus, Ohio, outlined his offer in a letter to Garrison, with widely distributed copies.

THE ELUSIVE NOVEL, who fled New Orleans while under subpoena to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury back in March, said in his letter that Garrison has 72 hours in which to accept his offer to return.

The text of the novel letter is as follows:

"Now that your requested bonds of \$80,000 have been reduced by law to recognizance and in the sincere interest of justice, I hereby make you my final offer to testify before your New Orleans Grand Jury on all matters pertinent or impertinent to your office and your current investigation into your alleged John F. Kennedy assassination conspiracy and its related prosecutions.

"This proposal is made solely in view of your past actions and past actions of your grand jury and the number, nature and strange backgrounds and character of the witnesses for the prosecution in the cases of the State of Louisiana vs. Dean Andrews, Esquire, and Clay Shaw, Richard Townley, Walter Sheridan, myself, et al.

"AS I DO NOT legally or otherwise ever have to return to Louisiana due to your ineptness in not sending any legal or factual extradition papers to Ohio for my return in the allotted legal time of three months, and as I am sure you would like the opportunity to vindicate yourself and your office of my to-date-substantiated charges of fraud, malicious prosecution and malfeasance of public office, I hereby submit my one and only simple term for your astute consideration:

"To wit:

"I, Gordon Novel, do hereby

to New Orleans last month. His lawyers have charged that the subpoena is a form of harassment by Garrison's office.

THE STATE Supreme Court also took action today on a

offer to voluntarily return to Louisiana to voluntarily testify before your New Orleans grand jury on any question relative to your legal or verbal charges against Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw, David Ferrie, Sergio Arcacha Smith, Dean Andrews, Layton Martens, Walter Sheridan, Richard Townley, NBC, the FBI, the CIA or myself, with the sole provision that in the interest of your often-stated desire for unperjured "legal scientific objective truth and justice," I be administered by your Dr. Esmond Fadder (sic), (with prior clinical isolation and medical supervision) the same truth serum and-or hypnosis given by your office to Mr. Perry Raymond Russo and that while under the influence of those objective, scientific veracity controls and while on your office's polygraph, I give answer to yourself on any and all questions while under oath in the presence of your grand jury, and that these tests and their results be made part of the official record.

"MR. GARRISON, it is my most earnest desire to separate this matter of a conspiracy to assassinate John F. Kennedy in the United States of America into either fact or fraud, fiction and fabrication.

"As I intend to take a needed long vacation, you have 72 hours to accept or reject this final offer to testify as your most important material witness."

In other probe developments, subpoenas were going out today to witnesses for both state and defense in the perjury trial of attorney Dean A. Andrews Jr., to begin here Wednesday in the court of Criminal District Judge Frank J. Shea.

petition filed by another probe figure, John Cancler, who refused to repeat before the grand jury charges he made on the NBC program. Cancler, a convicted burglar who calls himself John the

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Attorney Sam Monk Zelden, defense counsel for Andrews, today asked for subpoenas to be sent out to two new witnesses.

The subpoenas are being issued to David L. Chandler, 724 Gov. Nicholls, a reporter for Life magazine, and Sam DePino, a reporter for WVUE-TV of New Orleans.

EARLIER, IT WAS learned that the state has been blocked in its attempts to have former Warren Commission attorney Wesley J. Leibeler return to New Orleans for the trial.

A district court judge at Brattleboro, Vt., denied the DA's request after Leibeler said he had personal business conflicting with the trial dates. Leibeler had declined to come to New Orleans voluntarily.