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NEW ORLEANS, La. AP - A federal judge has scheduled a pretrial conference Sept. 4 on a request by two television newsmen that Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison be enjoined from harassing them because of their criticism of Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe.

U.S. Dist. Judge Alvin Rubin ruled Monday that the allegations by Walter Sheridan, an investigative reporter for the National Broadcasting Co., and Richard Townley of NBC's New Orleans affiliate, WDSU-TV, were sufficient to require a hearing.

The judge, at the same time, decided that Sheridan does not have to appear before the Orleans Parish grand jury, which is helping Garrison investigate what he claims was a plot hatched in New Orleans to kill President John F. Kennedy, who was slain Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas, Tex.

He said if Sheridan was required to appear before the grand jury he would be forced to match legal wits with Garrison without an attorney.

Rubin, however, denied a request by Sheridan and Townley that Garrison be enjoined from prosecuting them on public bribery charges.

The two newsmen were accused by Garrison of attempting to get his assassination probe witnesses to change their testimony. Townley is also charged with intimidation of a state witness.

Sheridan and Townley filed a federal court suit after their arrests, claiming that Garrison has harassed them because they have been critical of the probe.

Sheridan returned here voluntarily to surrender and post bond. He was immediately given a subpoena to appear before the grand jury.

"There is no way for Sheridan or his lawyer to know whether the grand jury investigation is against public bribery and hence is no threat to Sheridan, or is against some other offense, leaving Sheridan naked to those whom he conceives to be his enemies," Rubin wrote.

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