

ACTS ON BAR ASSOCIATION REQUEST

Gremillion Launches O'Hara Probe

Attorney General Jack Gremillion announced today he has begun a "thorough study and investigation" of charges which led the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission to seek the ouster of Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara.

Gremillion said his investigation is being made at the request of the New Orleans Bar Association.

He said his office is awaiting a promised petition from the MCC which has called for the removal of Judge O'Hara from office.

"THIS IS AN important matter which must require thorough study and investigation," the attorney general said today.

Judge O'Hara's testimony last month at Chicago in a new-trial hearing for convicted Teamsters Union boss James Hoffa sparked the controversy over his fitness to hold office.

The judge told a Chicago federal court he was the expense-paid traveling companion of New Orleans builder Zachary A. Strate and served as a "messenger" in attempts to procure evidence in Hoffa's behalf.

Strate was convicted with Hoffa in 1964 of fraud and conspiracy charges growing out of what the government contended was the misuse of Teamsters Union funds.

THE CRIME commission confirmed yesterday that it

plans to follow statutory procedure by filing a 25-name petition initiating a suit seeking Judge O'Hara's removal.

Such a suit requires an investigation by the attorney

general's office which, at its conclusion, will file the findings with the Louisiana State Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court will review the evidence and decide

whether the office holder should be removed from his job.

Gremillion said the investigation will consume "considerable time and effort."

Governor Poor Crime Fighter, Rarick Says

U.S. Rep. John Rarick today criticized Gov. John J. McKeithen's attempts to deal with crime in the streets and with Life magazine's recent allegations of syndicated crime in the state.

Rarick told members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce that if he were governor, he wouldn't "go running off to New York to talk to the magazine editor about the articles.

"I'd stay right here and together with district attorneys do all within my power to remedy the crime that does exist."

RARICK ALSO said that if he were governor, "I'd see that the word 'rehabilitation' didn't mean several thousand dollars to regain freedom for criminals."

The congressman, who is a candidate for governor in the November Democratic primary, told Jaycees that "Gov. McKeithen has never signed a death warrant the entire four years he's been in office."

He also said that "often local crime is not really local but extends into several parishes and in that sense is almost syndicated.

"LOCAL authorities say they are powerless because they don't have jurisdiction over certain aspects of particular crimes. Committees are appointed, but they never do anything and almost seem to operate under the conviction that people are people and they'll soon forget a particular crisis as soon as another one arises to attract their attention.

"I think that every time a committee is appointed, it is a slap at the judicial system of our constitutional form of government.

"I also think that the governor should enter into crime prevention if local authorities find themselves powerless and without jurisdiction."

MCC Records Subpenaed by Grand Jury

The Orleans Parish Grand Jury today subpenaed all records of the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission, including the names of the commission's confidential informants and what amounts 1/2 they were paid for information.

The subpoena calls on officers of the MCC to deliver the documents and records to the grand jury at 2 p. m. Thursday.

It names MCC President E. C. Upton, Treasurer James W. Mills Jr., Secretary P. L. Frank Sr. and Managing Director Aaron Kohn as the officers responsible for producing the books and records.

Among the papers the jury wants to see are the membership records of the MCC—the names of members and contributors and the amounts of their contributions.

Subpenas were dispatched shortly after 2 p. m. as the grand jury pressed an inquiry into recent allegations of organized crime in the New Orleans metropolitan area.