

Embattled O'Hara Before U.S. Jury

By JOHN M'MILLAN

Criminal Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara appeared for less than five minutes today before a federal grand jury investigating allegations that bribes were offered in an attempt to free Teamster Union boss James R. Hoffa from prison.

O'Hara would make no comment on his appearance. Also testifying today were O'Hara's court reporter, Julian Levy, and Baton Rouge Municipal Court Judge William Hawk-Daniels.

YESTERDAY, THE jury heard from New Orleans contractor Zachary A. "Red" Strate, television newsman Walter Sheridan, New Orleans attorney Edward M. Baldwin and Pershing O. Gervais, former investigator for Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

Judge O'Hara testified in a Chicago federal court hearing last month that he had been a "messenger" in an attempt to get Baton Rouge teamster official Edward G. Partin to sign an affidavit that illegal wiretapping had been used to convict Hoffa.

Partin's testimony was instrumental in Hoffa's conviction on charges of fraud and conspiracy in Chattanooga in 1964.

Levy, asked whether he prepared the affidavit for Judge O'Hara, replied, "Yes."

JUDGE DANIELS told reporters that he was a witness in Hoffa's 1964 jury-tampering trial. Asked whether he was going to cooperate with the grand jury, Judge Daniels said, "I regard the grand jury as an important adjunct to law and order."

"A person shouldn't go before a grand jury if he is not going to be cooperative."

After hearing Judge Daniels, the jury adjourned without indicating when it would resume the investigation.

Accompanying O'Hara to the federal court building today was attorney Robert J. Zibilich.

Strate was convicted in Chicago along with Hoffa on the fraud and conspiracy charges.

During a federal court hearing in Chicago last month, Strate testified that Sheridan offered to help him if he would furnish information

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damaging to Garrison's Kennedy assassination investigation.

SHERIDAN IS a former investigator for the Justice Department who worked on the investigation which led to Hoffa's arrest.

Sheridan has denied the allegations.

Judge O'Hara, testifying during the same Chicago hearing, said he had been a messenger in connection with an alleged attempt to get Partin to sign an affidavit that illegal wiretap evidence had been used to convict Hoffa.

The judge told the court that Baldwin, his campaign manager in his unsuccessful attempt to oust Garrison in the district attorney's race in 1965, informed him that Sheridan was preparing a program on Garrison for NBC. O'Hara said that Baldwin arranged a meeting between Strate and Sheridan.

Yesterday Sheridan said when he found out Strate was at the meeting, he asked what Strate wanted from him. Sheridan said that when he found out Strate wanted information on wiretapping in Hoffa's case "that was the end of it." Sheridan said there was no wiretapping involved.



—States-Item Photo.
**JUDGE
MALCOLM V. O'HARA**

Gremillion Sees Long Delay in O'Hara's Case

By BILL LYNCH
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — Attorney General Jack Gremillion today said it will be "quite a few days" before he files a pleading before the state Supreme Court in the case of Orleans Criminal District Judge Malcolm O'Hara.

Pressure is being applied from several sources, including the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission and the New Orleans Bar Association, to take removal action against O'Hara because of his association with a convicted felon involved in the efforts to free International Teamster boss James Hoffa from federal prison.

Gremillion said he is proceeding with an investigation into O'Hara's case on the basis of information supplied by the Bar Association, but has yet to receive a formal petition for action from the MCC.

The attorney general said it will take quite a while to prepare a case against the New Orleans judge and that he must keep O'Hara advised of every accusation which may be leveled against him.

Gremillion said that he has assigned four assistants in his office to work on the case and is planning to send one of them to Chicago to examine records of the federal court proceeding at which O'Hara admitted he was a paid companion of Zachary Strate. The court hearing was an effort to gain a new trial for Hoffa.

The attorney general said he did not want to try the case in newspapers, but is proceeding as rapidly as he can.

"I'm not delaying this," Gremillion said.