

O'Hara Ouster Bid

(States-Item Bureau)
BATON ROUGE—The New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission today filed a petition with

Atty. Gen. Jack Gremillion seeking the removal of Criminal District Judge Malcolm O'Hara, charging him with gross

misconduct and possible high crimes in office.

The petition bore the signatures of 45 persons, 20 more than needed under the law which requires the attorney

Filed

general to institute proceedings before the state supreme court.

Gremillion said that he would proceed without undue delay, but that it would take time to investigate and carry out the mechanics of the proceedings.

E. C. Upton Jr., president of the crime commission, forwarded the petition to Gremillion, citing O'Hara's appearance and testimony before a federal court in Chicago. The New Orleans judge admitted being the companion of a convicted man and having had his expenses paid by the man.

The petition submitted to Gremillion said:

"According to our information and belief, based upon the sworn testimony of Judge O'Hara and Zachary A. Strate Jr., before the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Illinois on Aug. 18 and 21, 1967, Judge O'Hara has engaged in acts constituting gross misconduct, and-or possible high crimes and misdemeanors in office, by performing services which Judge O'Hara described as those of a messenger and companion on behalf of two convicted felons, James R. Hoffa and Zachary A. Strate Jr.

"According to our information and belief, Judge O'Hara did consort with, and accept gifts of substantial value from, one of the convicted felons, namely Zachary A. Strate Jr.

The petition included the following documents:

Transcripts of testimony of O'Hara and Strate in Chicago, news articles from the States-Item, the Times-Picayune and copies of editorials from the Times-Picayune and WDSU-TV.

In his accompanying letter to Gremillion, Upton said that all of the citizens signing the petition are residents of Orleans Parish.

He said further, "In accordance with article O, sections 1 and 5 of the Constitution of

(Turn to Page 22, Column 5)

Continued from Front Page

the State of Louisiana, this petition makes it mandatory upon you to institute proceedings before the supreme court of this state for their decision on the removal from office of Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara."

THE MCC EARLIER had asked Gov. John J. McKeithen to initiate action against O'Hara, but the governor declined, pointing out that the crime commission could investigate the action with a petition signed by 25 citizens and taxpayers.

Meanwhile, the New Orleans Bar Association also stepped into the picture and urged the attorney general to move against O'Hara. On the basis of that request, Gremillion said he had started an investigation of the case and has assigned four of his assistants to handle it.

Judge O'Hara became the subject of controversy after he testified last month at a Chicago federal court hearing on a motion for a new trial for Hoffa, the Teamsters' Union president convicted of jury tampering at Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1964.

THE JUDGE SAID that he had acted as a messenger in an attempt to get Baton Rouge Teamster official Edward Grady Partin, whose testimony was instrumental in convicting Hoffa, to change his story. Judge O'Hara said during the hearing that there was an attempt to get Partin to sign an affidavit stating that illegal wire-tap evidence had been used to convict Hoffa.

Judge O'Hara said that he had been the expense-paid traveling companion of Strate, who was convicted with Hoffa of conspiracy and fraud in another case.

Yesterday, O'Hara was called before a federal grand jury, which is investigating allegations of a conspiracy to get Partin to change his story.

Those who signed the petition are:

E. C. Upton Jr., 629 Burdette.

Dr. J. D. Grey, 4524 S. Galvez.

P. L. Frank Jr., 4129 Vendome pl.

Robert D. Hess, 5534 Prytania.

John S. Froelich, 5371 Charlotte dr.

E. S. Shamburger, 1486 Granada.

G. C. Addis, 4932 S. Rocheblave.

T. O. Winn, 838 Mouton.

Neil Parks, 2329 Lark.

J. M. Jolley, 7300 Onyx.

A. M. Brian Jr., 1514 Fern.

F. Kennedy Johnson, 4243 Vincennes.

Joseph W. Simon Jr., 2516 Pine.

Bailey T. DeBardleben, 5582 Jacquelyn ct.

Shirley B. Braselman, 921 Dauphine.

Frank H. Walk, 1543 Henry Clay ave.

William Brandner, 5200 Bancroft dr.

Isaac Alcus, 4007 St. Charles ave.

A. J. Maier, 4241 Gen. Pershing.

Eugene A. Sheehan, 5604 Woodlawn pl.

W. K. Watters, 2314 Camp.

M. Hepburn Many, 4 Cromwell pl.

Samuel A. Carleton, 3701 Carondelet.

John P. Chussonerges, 511 Gallier dr.

Benjamin Toledano, 5508 St. Anthony.

A. E. Simmons Jr., 1544 State.

Samuel Wilson Jr., 1121 Washington ave.

J. M. Baldwin, 306 Carondelet bldg.

Lawrance B. Eustis, 2837 Eton.

Edgar Bright Jr., 1415 Exposition blvd.

Ray W. Brown, 1801 Upperline.

L. E. Cox Jr., 2112 State st.

Murphy Moss, 133 Bellaire dr.

Morrell F. Trimble, 7020 Green.

Darwin S. Fenner, 6123

Marquette pl.
 E. J. Hardie Jr., 1719 Peniston.
 William Thompson, 1930 Jefferson ave.
 Robert E. Young, 5530 S. Liberty.
 Russell Clark, 1680 State.
 Elroy Perrien, 1414 Jefferson ave.
 St. Marc J. Flotte, 3410 Octavia.
 Arthur Fort, 38 Warbler.
 Clarence Scheps, 6321 Freret.
 William S. Turner, 2705 Prytania.
 One signature was illegible.