

PRIVATE TESTIMONY

Garrison Accepts Reporter's Offer

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison today challenged Life Magazine reporter David Chandler to appear in the DA's office with his attorney and testify about his knowledge of organized crime in the New Orleans area.

The DA disputed a claim by Chandler's attorney, Cicero C. Sessions, that he had offered to appear voluntarily outside the secret chambers of the grand jury. But Garrison added:

"I accept. The sooner the better."

By ROSEMARY JAMES

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison today denied that his office had ever been offered a \$52,000 bribe by Jefferson Parish rackets figure Carlos Marcello.

Yesterday, during a hearing to determine whether newsman David L. Chandler will have to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury,

Chandler testified that he had wanted to ask first assistant DA Charles Ray Ward why Garrison had "never prosecuted Carlos Marcello for offering him (Garrison) a \$52,000 bribe"

CHANDLER said that if he had been taken before the grand jury, he could have testified "from personal knowledge" that such a bribe was offered.

Garrison, interviewed today following meetings with Gov. John J. McKeithen and a group of supporters known as Truth and Consequences of New Orleans, Inc., said, "By now everyone knows my office and knows that the idea of anybody offering a bribe to my office is too ridiculous even to consider."

The DA said, however, that

if Chandler thought he had such information he should be willing to take it to the grand jury. Chandler has fought a grand jury subpoena, claiming he is being harassed by the DA and his staff.

"This is just the kind of thing the grand jury should hear," Garrison said. "It's just all the more reason Chandler should come before the grand jury."

GARRISON said, "I don't know why Chandler's afraid to go before the jury . . . 12 New Orleans citizens wouldn't let me get away with being the sort of monster he seems to think I would be."

The DA said that his staff has not found any indication that organized crime was in-

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involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Garrison, who is investigating the death, said, "We know that organized crime elements are not involved . . . it is not a significant point . . . the significant point is that militant, right wing individuals were involved . . . I wish organized crime were involved; it would be more interesting; but it's just not there."

HE SAID, "We will prove beyond a reasonable doubt that militant right-wing individuals were involved in the assassination."

Neither Garrison nor the governor would comment on details of their meeting this morning. They both said that "it was more social than anything else." McKeithen said that he wanted to tell Garrison what his administration's policies are going to be for the next four years. The governor said that he and Garrison had been good friends in the past and that he wanted to emphasize "we are still good friends."

THE DA said that his meeting with Truth and Consequences was primarily to bring members up to date "in a general sort of way" on his assassination probe, which T&C is helping to bankroll, and to see about getting more contributions. He called the meeting highly successful and the members "very helpful."

Gov. and Mrs. McKeithen left for New York after his meeting with Garrison. He told newsmen "We'll be back in time for the LSU game Saturday."

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