

Court Studies Bid to Reopen Chandler Case

A three-judge federal court took under advisement today a motion by Life Magazine reporter David L. Chandler to reopen the case in which he is fighting to prevent his appearance before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Chandler's attorney, Cicero C. Sessions, told the court that after the special three-judge panel had heard the case last week Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison "in effect called Mr. Chandler a liar and called me, in effect, a liar. I take it very seriously when the district attorney of my city calls me a liar while a case of mine is pending in court."

HEARING THE motion were U.S. District Judges Edward J. Boyle Sr. and James A. Comiskey and Circuit Judge Robert A. Ainsworth Jr.

Sessions took exception to a statement by first Asst. DA Charles Ward that Chandler had changed his story concerning an interrogation by Ward last Jan. 26.

Chandler, who has been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury which is investigating Life Magazine's allegations of organized crime, contends that Garrison is trying to entrap him into appearing before the jury and then indict him for perjury "no matter what he says."

SESSIONS ALSO introduced into the court records an affidavit alleging Garrison told Chandler that Carlos Marcello, Jefferson Parish rackets figure, offered him a \$52,000 bribe to allow slot machines in Orleans Parish.

Last week Garrison said that the bribe allegation "is just the kind of thing the grand jury should hear."

Judge Ainsworth asked Asst. DA James Alcock, who is representing the DA's office in the case, whether it wouldn't be hard for the DA to question Chandler about an alleged bribe of Garrison himself.

ALCOCK, WHO asked the court that the case not be reopened, said he does not feel that Chandler has presented any new evidence.

Before taking the case under submission, Judge Ainsworth commented that "what concerns us is whether the focus of the investigation is on Chandler and if so, whether he would be deprived of his constitutional rights by appearing before the grand jury."