

JUNE 8, 1968

MCC Urges Rehearing in O'Hara Case

Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion has been urged to apply to the Louisiana Supreme Court for a rehearing on a suit to oust Criminal Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara.

The Metropolitan Crime Commission asked for the hearing in a letter to Gremillion yesterday, saying the state apparently proved the charges of misconduct against the judge.

The MCC letter, signed by William I. Monaghan, acting president, and Aaron M. Kohn, managing director, said Justice E. Howard McCaleb was apparently the only judge who considered O'Hara's misconduct sufficiently "gross" to justify O'Hara's removal from office.

Last Tuesday the Supreme Court dismissed the ouster suit against O'Hara by a 6-1 decision with Justice McCaleb dissenting.

The MCC said "we do not . . . believe that final judgement of the majority of the court was consistent with the public interest."

The commission said that "public attitudes towards the courts are only as good as the evident standards of judges who administer them.

"When one judge conducts himself in a manner which violates public trust, thereby causing distrust and disrespect, he must be removed."

The court, the MCC said, must expect as a result of the decision that "public respect for law and order will decline."