

12 June 69

THURSDAY

GARRISON BLASTED**Crime Unit Director Refuses to Testify**

Aaron M. Kohn, managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans Inc., said he would not testify before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury today as requested, because an appearance would only give District Attorney Jim Garrison an opportunity to "persecute rather than prosecute."

Kohn said he had come under criticism and attack from Garrison.

He said in a letter to Fernand Lapeyre, foreman of the grand jury, that "the district attorney's aggressive actions to silence me and our organization in our efforts to alert the community to the activities and dangers of organized crime have been fully documented."

"THIS HISTORY of Mr. Garrison's abuse of the grand jury and legal processes is the subject of open and pending litigation initiated by our crime commission on Jan. 15, 1968, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana."

He said the experience of the Crime Commission had forced it to believe that it could be of help to the jury only if the following conditions are brought about:

—The assignment of a "competent and trustworthy" special assistant district attorney not presently on the DA's staff to serve as legal advisor to the jury in con-

nection with the organized crime probe.

—The formation of a committee of three knowledgeable lawyers to select a man to be appointed as special assistant prosecutor for the grand jury. The committee, Kohn said, could consist of men such as former Louisiana Bar Association President Leon Sarpy, Tulane University Law School Dean Joseph M. Sweeney and Cicero C. Sessions.

—The provision of office facilities for the special prosecutor, remote from offices of Garrison, so that witnesses could be questioned and evidence secure from observation or interference by the present DA staff.

—That the assistance of Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso and Jefferson Parish Sheriff Alwyn J. Cronvich be enlisted by requesting assignment of specially trained officers from the intelligence units to aid the grand jury and special prosecutor.

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