

Bail Case Probe Opens Tomorrow

The Orleans Parish Grand Jury tomorrow will begin an investigation into allegations that bribes were paid to a former assistant district attorney on behalf of a bail

bond company which owes \$629,000 in forfeitures.

The probe was requested by Charles Ray Ward, who resigned last month as top aide to District Attorney Jim Garrison and who asked the grand

jury to probe the accusations against himself.

IT BECAME CLEAR today, however, that Garrison's office intends to pursue its own probe through the grand jury. There was no official comment but James L. Alcock,

the DA's new chief assistant, said:

"This could be a very long session of the jury." There was no word as to whether Ward will be called before the jury tomorrow.

WARD QUIT the DA's office June 17, announcing at the same time that he plans to run for DA against Garrison in the November Democratic primary election.

Ward charged Garrison resigned on a promise to recommend him for appointment as a criminal district court judge. Garrison conceded he withdrew his recommendation after affidavits were filed by bonding company officials who claimed payoffs had been made to Ward in an attempt to influence him to move slowly in collecting forfeiture claims against the Maryland National Insurance Co.

The jury meets at 10 a. m. tomorrow. It has several routine cases on the docket in addition to the bail bond probe.

WARD LAST THURSDAY handed a letter to grand jury foreman Ferdinand S. Lapeyre asking the jury to investigate charges an effort was made to blackmail the DA's office into settling a claim against Maryland National.

In the letter, Ward claimed attorney Ralph Kaskell attempted to force the DA's office to make a favorable settlement of the \$629,000 claim.

See BAIL—Page 8

Bail--

Continued from Front Page

by threatening to reveal an alleged act of public bribery involving Ward.

WARD SAID THE allegations are false and asked for an opportunity to testify before the jury in the matter, offering to waive his right to any immunity from prosecution.

The DA's office accused Maryland National of failing to pay the \$629,000 due as a result of a large number of criminal court cases. The charge was made in a letter written to the Louisiana Insurance Commission last May by Assistant DA Shirley G. Wimberly Jr.

Some of the judgments, Wimberly said, date back to 1965.

The first use of lenses to form a telescope was by Roger Bacon in England in the 13th century.

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