

N.O. Judges Weigh Action On Bail Firm

By ALLAN KATZ

State Insurance Commissioner Dudley Guglielmo met secretly yesterday with the 10 Orleans Parish Criminal Court judges to discuss the solvency of the Maryland National Insurance Co., which owes \$720,775 in forfeited bail bonds.

The judges set a public hearing for tomorrow at 11 a.m. to determine whether to grant a motion filed by Maryland National attorneys asking the judges to rescind their order of Aug. 5 that no bail bonds written by Maryland National agents be accepted.

It was learned that the judges invited Guglielmo to New Orleans to hear his views on whether the company, which has only \$70,000 on deposit with Guglielmo's office, is good for the entire amount of \$720,775.

MARYLAND NATIONAL attorneys, in their motion to the Criminal Court judges, said the company has assets of \$3,457,011.91.

However, Guglielmo is reported to have told the judges that some of Maryland's assets are committed to meeting obligations in other states and there is some question as to how much of Maryland's assets are liable to being seized by Orleans Parish Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, who is responsible for collecting forfeited bail bonds.

The judges must decide if they will permit Maryland National agents to begin writing bail bonds again.

IF THEY DECIDE not to let the Maryland agents resume writing bonds, the judges could find themselves in a jurisdictional dispute with the Federal District Court, which has ruled that Garrison may not proceed against Maryland National or hamper

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their operations in any way at this time.

The situation has arisen because Garrison's office failed to collect Maryland National's forfeited bail bonds during a three-year period from 1966 to early 1969.

Garrison has called the failure to collect the forfeited bail bonds "the one major mistake" of his seven-year administration. He has pledged that the entire amount will be collected.