

Haik Granted Supreme Court Review of Case

Attorney Robert G. Haik of New Orleans has been granted a review by the Louisiana Supreme Court of his conviction for unauthorized use of \$50,000 belonging to the mother of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

Following a conference yesterday, Chief Justice E. Howard McCaleb and Associate Justices Joe W. Sanders, Walter B. Hamlin, Albert Tate Jr. and John A. Dixon Jr. set an April 1 hearing for Haik.

Haik was tried by Criminal District Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara without a jury July 17, 1970, and was found guilty Sept. 17.

He was sentenced to serve six months in Parish Prison and to pay a \$100 fine. The appellate division of the court upheld the judgment Jan. 14.

Haik's attorneys then filed a petition with the high court stating that Mrs. Jane Gardiner, 70, Laurel, Miss., the DA's mother, at no time invested any money or performed any services in the oil royalty deal involved in the case.

The petition said Mrs. Gardiner testified that during a meeting in Laurel in early 1966, Haik promised her half the profits he made in a venture with several of her friends.

The Supreme Court was asked to decide if an individual can claim ownership or an accounting of profits from mineral interests in Louisiana real estate by virtue of oral agreements, and whether the Criminal District Court has jurisdiction to try a person for "unauthorized use of a movable" in the absence of proof that the movable ever was physically located in Louisiana.

Garrison is using the power of his office to benefit his family, Haik charges, and is trying to affect the outcome of federal litigation over the money by charging Haik in criminal court. Haik was prosecuted by Robert J. Ziblich as district attorney ad hoc when Garrison recused himself.
