

Jurist Panel Will Probe 'Fix' Charge

By JAMES HEARTY

An official of the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana said today the commission will investigate charges that some New Orleans judges have allowed Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison to fix cases in their courts.

The charges were made by attorney William R. Alford who resigned last month as an assistant district attorney with a blast at Garrison's operation of the DA's office.

Eugene J. Murret, chief executive officer of the judiciary commission, said he will present Alford's statement to the commission at its next meeting.

MURRET SAID the commission's investigation will be to determine if any Criminal District Court judges are

guilty of wrongdoings. The commission is not empowered to investigate Garrison's activities.

An investigation by the commission last year led to the removal of Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. from the bench. Haggerty had been arrested in a vice squad raid on a New Orleans motel. He was acquitted of charges against him but the judiciary panel recommended his removal from office. The panel's recommendation was upheld by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

When Alford quit his post on June 21, after five years on the job, he charged that "certain politicians and criminal district court judges" are involved in wrongdoings. He said "some state representatives" can "get away with anything they want from the DA's office."

ALFORD DID NOT name any person other than Garrison.

He told newsmen if they carefully researched files of the Criminal District Court they would find that certain sections routinely dismiss far more cases than others and that certain attorneys fare better than others in treatment of their clients.

Among Alford's charges was one that persons arrested for crimes and who have previous felony convictions are being released from jail without posting bond by some Criminal District Court judges. He said the "DA's office is sitting idly by because the present DA has neither the interest nor the strength to attack this abuse."

The investigation was confirmed by Murret in answer to newsmen's questions.