

DA Blames Indictments On Investigation of JFK

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, indicted by a federal grand jury here on gambling and income tax charges, says the same thing would happen "to every individual who opposes a centralized government which has grown too powerful."

Garrison, who claims the federal action against him was in reprisal for his investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, was indicted yesterday along with nine others on charges of conspiring to bribe law enforcement officials to protect illegal gambling.

A separate indictment accused Garrison of filing false federal income tax returns in 1965-67.

SUCH ACTION, Garrison said, "is what happens to men in totalitarian governments who tell their countrymen the truth about their government."

He said, "It is an honor to be indicted by a country which has for so long concealed from its citizens the truth

about the assassination: . . . and which has fought the efforts of any citizens to seek the truth."

Two of the others named in the conspiracy charges were former New Orleans police officers. They were Frederick A. Soule Sr., 51, a former captain, and Robert N. Frey, a former sergeant. Frey had been commander of the city's vice squad. Soule had been an investigator assigned to Garrison's staff.

Asst. U.S. Atty. Julian Murray said after the indictments were returned he did not think it was necessary to arrest the defendants. He asked the judge to set \$10,000 personal recognizance bonds in each case.

THE BONDS need not be posted until they appear for arraignment, which has not been set.

The defendants, including seven men connected with pinball-machine operations in Louisiana, were under similar charges filed in a criminal complaint last summer. They were free on bond in that case.

Soule and Frey were dismissed from the police force after the criminal complaint was filed.

The Justice Department, in announcing the indictments, said Garrison, Soule and Frey conspired to receive bribes of up to \$1,500 a month from the other defendants to allow illegal gambling businesses to operate without substantial interference from law enforcement officials.

IN WASHINGTON, Atty. Gen. John Mitchell said illegal pinball gambling in Louisiana was estimated to be a \$15-million-a-year racket.

Mitchell noted that since July, 1970, federal agents have seized 4,100 pinball machines in Louisiana and Mississippi worth more than \$10 million.

The indictment alleged that as part of the conspiracy, Pershing Gervais, former chief investigator for the dis-

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

trict attorney's office, acted as the middleman through whom bribes were paid to Garrison and the two policemen.

The Justice Department said that the Internal Revenue Service had been investigating Gervais' income tax returns since May, 1969, and that in June 1969 he began cooperating with the IRS investigation.

THE GOVERNMENT'S criminal complaint four months ago made no mention of income-tax violations.

The indictments yesterday charged Garrison with perjury and fraud in knowingly filing false income-tax re-

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We're not about to play into Mr. Garrison's hands by making a circus of judicial procedures . . . Mr. Garrison feels that all the world's a stage, and all the people merely players. Well, we're not playing games. This is a very serious matter."—



U.S. Atty. Gerald J. Gallinghouse in response to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's making public a proposed federal indictment charging him and nine other men with obstructing the enforcement of state gambling laws.

turns when "he knew that each year he had substantial additional income."

The indictment said Garrison reported 1965 income of \$35,670, including \$15,250 from sources other than wages; \$28,984 for 1966, including \$9,500 from "miscellaneous income"; and \$17,984 for 1967 although he had "substantial additional income" for the year "which was not reported on said return."

Garrison could face a maximum sentence of five years in jail and a \$20,000 fine for the conspiracy-bribery charge. He also could receive three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine on each count of the income-tax charge.

GARRISON denied any wrongdoing and said, "The greatest organized crime in America today is the ruthless use by our federal government of power against humanity."

On Thursday, Garrison handed out to newsmen an unsigned copy of the proposed indictment which he said would be returned against him the following day.

He claimed that U.S. Atty. Gerald Gallinghouse of New Orleans leaked it to the public to put the grand jury in the position of having to return a true bill.

Gallinghouse denied it, saying the copy might have been accidentally released with distribution of another set of indictments returned Wednesday in the lengthy investigation of pinball machine gambling.

IN THE Wednesday indictments, Bally Manufacturing Corp. of Chicago, the world's largest manufacturer of gambling-type pinball machines, the firm's president and 12 Louisiana men were charged in connection with illegal gambling.

The 13 were accused of interstate shipment of pinball machines to aid illegal gambling in Louisiana.

Pinball machines are not illegal in Louisiana, but state law prohibits their use for gambling.

The federal grand jury had been studying the Garrison-bribery case for four months.

INDICTED yesterday in addition to Garrison, Soule and Frey were Louis M. Boasberg, Harby S. Marks Jr., John J. Elms Jr., Lawrence L. Lagarde Sr., Robert Nims, John E. Pierce and John A. Callery.

Callery was identified as a lobbyist for the pinball industry in the Louisiana legislature and a former partner in the New Orleans Novelty Co. and the New Orleans Novelty Sales Co.

Boasberg is a partner in both those companies.

Marks is an employe of the New Orleans Novelty Co.

ELMS AND Lagarde are partners in TAC Amusement Co., New Orleans.

Nims is principal stockholder in REN Enterprises, Inc., AMS Distribu-

tors, Inc., RDM Corp. and LeCafeterie, Inc.
Pierce is owner of Pierce Amusement Co.
Callery, Boasberg, Elms, Nims, Pierce and Lagarde were among those named in the Wednesday indictments.