

## ATTORNEY GREENE HELD IN CONTEMPT

A close associate of City Councilman Clarence O. Dupuy today refused to tell a grand jury whether he gave the councilman monetary kickbacks and was promptly held in contempt.

Floyd F. Greene, attorney for the inheritance tax collector, who has been in the spotlight since he testified in civil court that part of his fees went to Dupuy, was held in contempt by Criminal District Court Judge Israel Augustine.

Greene was called before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury last Thursday and took the Fifth Amendment,

refusing to give information about his relationship with Dupuy, with whom he shares a law office, on grounds that such testimony might tend to incriminate him.

TODAY, Judge Augustine ruled that Greene was within his rights in refusing to give such testimony, and the office of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison promptly granted him immunity from prosecution and called him back before the jury so he could tell his story without fear of reprisal.

Under the immunity, Greene was asked:

"Did you give Clarence Dupuy anything of value to secure your position as attorney for the inheritance tax collector?"

Greene refused to answer and Judge Augustine held him in contempt.

AT THE request of Greene's attorney Mrs. Lillian Cohen, Judge Augustine delayed sentencing until 10 a. m. tomorrow to allow time for an appeal to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

The state attorney general's office said that under state law, the judge could order Greene jailed indefinitely until he purges himself of contempt by answering the question.

The granting of immunity to Greene and the question put to him under the immunity indicated that the DA's office is intent on getting to the bottom of the charges against Dupuy, a long-time political foe of Garrison.

But in response to a question, Garrison said "the last thing I would do would be to use my office as a means of getting even with anybody."

Earlier today, Gov. John J. McKeithen appeared before the grand jury. Before going in, he told newsmen he doesn't remember who recommended Greene to him for appointment to the tax post.

The governor spent 45 minutes before the jury. Grand jury proceedings are secret and there was no word of what he said, but he talked freely with newsmen beforehand.

Gov. McKeithen said it has been so long since he filled the post he doesn't remember anything about it. He appointed Greene in 1964. Dupuy has denied he had anything to do with the appointment.

THE GOVERNOR SAID he didn't know who Greene was until he read the story of the alleged kickback scandal in The States-Item. The matter became public when Greene testified in a divorce case that he turned over to

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Dupuy all but \$700 a month of his fees in the attorney's post.

GOV. M'KEITHEN SAID he agreed to appear voluntarily before the jury but "I don't know what I can contribute because I don't remember much about the case." He said he came at the request of Garrison.

The governor said the system of having the attorney for the tax collector operate on a fee basis is a bad one "and maybe I should have had it changed." He said he hopes the incoming governor will look into the possibility of changing it.

Huey Long, he said, promised to change the system when he took office but instead appointed his brother to the post. He said the office has always been a political plum. "It was the same when Sam Jones was governor; now, when Big John appoints somebody, all of a sudden it's bad."

McKeithen said he feels the job could be best handled as a salaried position.

IN A RELATED development, Councilman Joseph V. DiRosa introduced a resolution at today's city council meeting recommending that attorneys for the state tax collector in each parish be appointed by the state revenue collector and paid a fixed salary.

DiRosa's resolution, which will come up for a vote at next week's council meeting, asks that the council request Gov.-elect Edwin Edwards and the incoming legislature to scrap the system by which the attorneys receive four per cent of the taxes imposed by the state on the estates of deceased persons.

The resolution asks that a salary not to exceed \$15,000 annually be paid the attorneys, although the amount may vary from one parish to another due to differences in work loads. It also asks that a maximum of two such attorneys be appointed for each parish.

DiROSA'S motion recommends that the attorneys continue to be compensated from the inheritance tax but that taxes collected in excess of the salary be placed in the general fund of the parish involved.

The resolution contends that "it is not in the public interest to continue the present system of compensating these attorneys in accordance with the present law."

DiRosa said he expects little or no opposition to the motion.

Also on hand for questioning at today's grand jury hearing was Mrs. Shirley Greene, estranged wife of the attorney. She had been subpoenaed to testify.

Earlier today, the Metropolitan Crime Commission called on the Board of Ethics for State Elected Officials to act on the allegations against Dupuy and Greene.

In a letter to Harold E. Forbes, secretary of the board, MCC director Aaron M. Kohn submitted a sworn complaint urging the board to pursue the matter.

The letter cited transcripts of testimony indicating that Greene testified before Civil District Judge Henry J. Roberts Jr. that he turned over all his income from the Inheritance Tax Collector's job to Dupuy, who then paid him \$700 a month for his work. The transcript also indicated that over a 13-month period, Dupuy received some \$73,000 from Greene, the complaint said.

Dupuy and Greene have denied the allegations. In the letter, Kohn cited the denials and Greene's Feb. 3 appearance before the grand jury in which he invoked the Fifth Amendment.

Kohn said the matter is being investigated by the Orleans Parish district attorney's office and the bar association, "but it is believed a much broader obligation has been vested in your board to examine this entire matter from the viewpoint of state officials and agencies performing their duties in a manner which justifies faith and trust of the general public."

The Ethics Board was created in 1964 to deal with just such matters, Kohn said, adding: "... The Dupuy-Greene matter represents another challenge to state government, through your board, to give reassurance that it will now, and in the future, be ready, willing and able to deter corruption by acting vigorously and impartially against it."

The letter urged the board to request assistance from the Organized Crime Intelligence Section of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety.

Kohn said though he personally signed the complaint as an individual qualified elector, his action was taken with authorization and approval of the board of directors of the MCC.

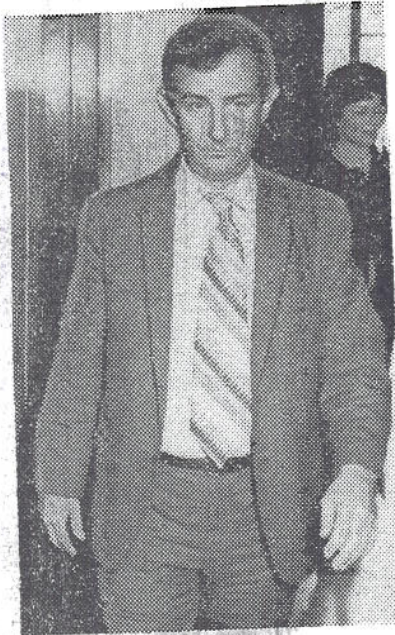


**Outside  
jury  
meeting**

GOV. JOHN J. M'KEITHEN, left, passes District Attorney JIM GARRISON after appearing before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury which is investigating allegations of kickbacks in the conduct of the attorney for the Orleans Parish inheritance tax collector. (States-Item photo by James W. Guillot.)



—Associated Press photo.  
**Mrs. Floyd F. Greene**



—States-Item photo.  
**Floyd F. Greene**