

THIRTY-FOUR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1972

Promises Weren't Kept,

Pershing Gervais, a onetime government informer back in New Orleans after nearly a year of seclusion, says he "probably wouldn't" have returned here had the government kept its promise of a good life for him in Canada.

He said the major motivation for him to leave Vancouver, B.C., was the Justice Department's refusal to live up to agreements they made.

Gervais said the agreements included a "meaningful

job with a career" and a tax-free salary of \$22,000 a year.

HE SAID he decided to return because of the government's failure to provide these, not because of concern for clearing up what he called a frameup against Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and nine other persons in an alleged pinball payoff scheme.

"I'm not a redeemer," said Gervais, who frequently punc-

tuated his answers with vulgarity at a press conference at WWL-TV.

Gervais, the government's key figure in its indictments against Garrison, claimed, however, he is certain Garrison is innocent. He refused to go into specifics.

Gervais was quoted in a 107-page government affidavit filed last year as delivering a \$1,000 bribe to Garrison.

THE STATES-ITEM

Pershing Gervais Says

GERVAIS, A former chief investigator for the district attorney, also said yesterday he is reluctant to appear at a federal court hearing June 12 that was set to determine his willingness in helping federal authorities investigate Garrison.

"I don't want to get nowhere near any kind of government installation," he said. He said he has not received a subpoena, but that he proba-

bly would appear in court if said he does receive one.

Asked if he would say under oath what he said at the press conference, Gervais answered, "I don't want to walk into a trap."

He charged that the hearing is an attempt by the government to bait a trap for him.

"THEY WON'T send me one (subpoena) until they got the trap properly baited," he

Gervais also charged that the assignment of the hearing to the courtroom of U.S. Dist. Court Judge Herbert W. Christenberry is "no accident." He did not elaborate.

Gervais claims two government agents harassed him into participating in a Garrison frameup.

"I'm mad at myself for letting me get pushed and dragged into it," he said.