

# Murder talk taboo

Nobody is supposed to be talking about it, but "the can of worms" keeps opening during the civil service board hearing into the dismissal of former city police captain Jimmie Bouton.

"It" is the murder, of Linda Hebert, which was committed last April.

Bouton was apparently put in charge of the investigation. The

city has apparently charged him with mishandling the case because three of the charges, or reasons, cited for his dismissal had to do with the murder case.

What those charges are specifically have not been brought out at the hearing. The district attorney has requested that details of the case not be discussed because it is still under

investigation. It is feared that pre-trial publicity would prevent the district attorney from building an effective case.

The request to refrain from discussing the murder was made at the outset of the hearing and the prosecution agreed to withdraw the three charges related to it. But it does keep coming up and it almost exploded into the open Monday afternoon when Ula Delhommer of Maurice, the murdered woman's sister, testified that on Aug. 13 she confronted Mayor Daniel Noel and told him to call the state police into the investigation or she would go to the news media.

Prosecuting attorney Anthony Fontana objected when she mentioned "the murder of my sister."

She was complaining that Sgt. Minos Hardy was not doing a good job of investigating the murder; that only Bouton appeared to be able to make any headway.

Mrs. Delhommer, who is a secretary at the USL Department of Medical Records and Microbiology, said she offered to Noel the department's electron microscope and other facilities and the assistance of USL personnel in investigating the murder, but that he has never discussed the possibilities with her since.

She said that finally "at my insistence" the mayor called in state police. She said she told him she was tired of the way the "local yokels" were handling the case.

This was not the first nor the last time the murder was brought

## Noel, Touchet exchange gibes

Two frequent public sparring mates exchanged sharp words Tuesday during the hearing into the dismissal of Jimmie Bouton from the Abbeville Police Department.

Mayor Daniel Noel called city councilman Warren Touchet "disloyal" and Touchet complained of the mayor's secrecy during defense attorney Ernest J. Cormier's probe into the hiring by the city of a special agent.

The Meridional erroneously reported Monday that Mayor Noel had hired Parrish Marcotte, a former city policeman, to work as an undercover agent to help the city solve a series of burglaries and crimes.

Under cross examination by city attorney Charles Sonnier, city finance director Kelly

The councilmen who recommended the hiring were identified as Touchet, Larry Fezzia, and John Guilbeau. It was later established that mayor pro tem John Vidos joined Noel in objecting to hiring Marcotte, whom Noel characterized as an "explosive" person.

While Richard was on the stand (he had testified as to the manner in which Marcotte had been paid before Sonnier cross examined him), Touchet rose from his seat in the audience demanding to know when the city council decided to pay Marcotte in the manner described and from which fund the money was to come.

Richard had said expense checks were made out in Mayor Noel's name and the mayor was turning the money over to Marcotte. He was receiving \$560 a month for his services.

## No. Four

up.

Defense attorney Ernest J. Cormier attempted to question Keno Mouton, a state police detective who has worked on the investigation.

Mouton had a statement which Cormier asked him to read, but prosecuting attorney Anthony Fontana objected, saying that the three points pertaining to the murder had been dropped.

Cormier disagreed, saying that information had been publicized. When Brady Broussard, chairman of the civil service board, asked if the material pertained to the death of Linda Hebert and Mouton nodded yes, Broussard said, "All right, I'll sustain it (the objection)."

Mouton offered to answer any questions he could but said he didn't think the statement should be read.

Cormier then asked if the three charges relating to the murder investigation were dropped for the hearing, were they dropped forever. Albert Boudreaux, the attorney Broussard has hired to help him through the legal ensnarlements of the hearing, said there was no way such assurance could be given.

Cormier insisted that the charges were so co-mingled that questions could not be raised without getting into the murder case; that without hearing them his client was prejudiced.

Broussard called a recess, during which the board ruled to allow Mouton to testify on the murder.

Cormier's response was to enter into the record that his client's case had been prejudiced. He added that the three charges were among the 22 filed by the city's counsel and that "they should not have been in there in the first place."

Cormier reluctantly dismissed Mouton and four other police officers he had subpoenaed.

At one point in the hearing when the case was mentioned, Cormier made reference to opening "a can of worms."

## No. Five

at Nunez, is the beauty spot to visit and to purchase citrus fruit and trees...the many trees are loaded with all sorts of citrus fruit...owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Grandberry, the nursery also has a fine garden...visitors are welcome.

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