

PLANNERS ASK GRAFT QUIZ

Commission Demands Accuser Tell Story to Grand Jury About Venice-Boulevard Permit

Intimations by a witness at a hearing before the City Planning Commission yesterday that a bribe had been paid for the granting of a spot zoning permit many months ago will be brought to the attention of the grand jury by the commission itself.

On motion of Commissioner Thomas, the commission instructed its general manager, C. Gordon Whitnall, to co-operate with the witness in bringing the matter before the grand jury for immediate investigation. The witness is John E. Nattress of 1614 South Wilton Place.

If Nattress evidences any unwillingness to bring his charge to the attention of the grand jury, Whitnall was further instructed to take the initiative himself and have the grand jury call Nattress before it. "We can't stand idly by and let insinuations of grafting pass unnoticed," Commissioner Thomas said when he moved that the mat-

ter be presented to the grand jury. Nattress appeared before the commission yesterday in opposition to an application for a spot-zoning permit for the establishment of a gasoline station at Venice Boulevard and Wilton Place. Some months ago a previous applicant had obtained favorable action from the commission on an application to put a business building on the same lot where it now is proposed to put a service station.

It was to obtain this previous favorable recommendation of the commission, Nattress said, that money had been paid. He did not specify to whom the money had been paid and did not even state outright that it had gone to a member of the commission, but he asserted that he has affidavits to support his charge.