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(KENNEDY ASSASSINATION)

John F. D.C

WASHINGTON--HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER GERALD R. FORD, MICH., SAID TODAY THE WARREN COMMISSION HAD "THOROUGHLY CHECKED OUT" DAVID Y. FERRIE AND ALL OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED RECENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY."

FORD, A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, DELIVERED AN IMPLIED REBUKE TO NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY JIM GARRISON FOR NOT TURNING OVER TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEW EVIDENCE HE CLAIMS TO HAVE UNCOVERED IN HIS INVESTIGATION OF THE 1963 ASSASSINATION.

"BECAUSE THE NATIONAL INTEREST IS INVOLVED," FORD SAID IN A STATEMENT, "IT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY THAT THERE NOW BE THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES."

FORD HAS SAID THAT IF GARRISON HAS ANY EVIDENCE, HE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

OF FERRIE, WHO WAS FOUND DEAD YESTERDAY, FORD SAID: "THE WARREN COMMISSION -- THROUGH ITS STAFF OF INVESTIGATORS -- THOROUGHLY CHECKED OUT ALL PERSONS WHOSE NAMES HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN RECENT NEWS STORIES, INCLUDING MR. FERRIE'S."

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NOT RECORDED
199 MAR 1 1967

For
 FOR MR. TOLSON
 77 MAR 8 1967

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE