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Investigation of President John F. Kennedy

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Wick	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

The Drama in New Orleans

IT IS ALTOGETHER remarkable that New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison is getting so much mileage out of so few facts. His probe of an alleged plot tied to the Kennedy assassination appears always on the verge of producing explosive information without really developing anything of substance.

There is no denying the spectacular nature of initial testimony by Perry Raymond Russo. The 25-year-old insurance salesman said he heard Lee Harvey Oswald, David Ferrie and Clay Shaw plan both the shooting and escape strategy.

But Russo's story is subject to change and it is not always easy to decide whether he is propounding fact or fancy. Garrison's charges against Shaw — only living member of the alleged conspiring trio — need a firmer foundation.

No one is quite ready to say that Garrison doesn't have a case. However, the only solid conclusion possible so far is that New Orleans harbors more than its share of strange and shadowy characters.

JIM GARRISON is also unique. The flamboyant district attorney apparently thrives on drama and controversy. And at the moment he is up to his ears in both. U.S. editors tend to view his investigation with a certain amount of skepticism, but the sensation-peddling European publications are having a field day. Their correspondents court the New Orleans DA with dedication — even sending flowers to his wife — and have been rewarded with headline-making articles. Garrison said in one interview he has had at least six telephone calls from Moscow.

Newsweek magazine identified one as coming from the Soviet Union's Literaturnaya Gazeta which later reported there was definitely a plot to assassinate

President Kennedy, but Oswald was not its key figure.

Russia, of course, would like to get Kennedy's blood off its hands by shifting the emphasis from Oswald, a trained Communist, to a suggestion that Kennedy was actually the victim of a right-wing, home-grown plot. And so would a lot of American ultra-liberals. It is easy to believe that the tears they shed over Kennedy's death were not based on the fact a good man died, but because a member of the right-wing lunatic fringe supposedly based in Dallas did not fire the shot.

To date they have extracted some grim satisfaction in postulating that the ugly mood of Dallas rightists established a climate conducive to an assassination attempt. This, of course, totally ignores Oswald's Communist ties, his pro-Castro activity in New Orleans and his previous defection to Soviet Russia.

Any day now we may hear the argument advanced that Lee Harvey Oswald was in truth an unknowing tool of fascist extremists in the United States.

THERE IS NO indication this is what Garrison hopes to accomplish. He wants only to be known as "the man who broke the Kennedy case." In short, Jim Garrison would like a little bit of the "instant immortality" which has come to all principals of this enduring tragedy.

But Garrison, as have other investigators before him, may be thwarted by the encroaching factor of death.

Oswald is dead, His executioner, Jack Ruby, is dead. David Ferrie, a prime suspect in the Garrison probe, is dead. And Perry Russo is an undependable witness who waited more than three years to come forward with his story of conspiracy.

Skepticism is still the order of the day.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Russell
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Burrison

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