

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tests Support Ferrie Died Natural Death

Orleans Parish Coroner Dr. Nicholas J. Chetta announced today that results of toxicological tests indicate that David William Ferrie died of natural causes.

Dr. Chetta said, however, that some tests are still being conducted by his office and that the official classification of Ferrie's death will not be forthcoming until Tuesday.

Ferrie, a central figure in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, was found dead in his uptown apartment shortly before noon Wednesday.

The coroner said that blood, urine and skin tests were negative. Specifically, the coroner said, no evidence of cyanide, heavy metals, alcohol, barbiturates, organic compounds such as lye and other caustic agents was uncovered by the tests. Dr. Chetta said there is no evidence to show that Ferrie ingested any chemical substance which might have been fatal.

Lt. Cornelius Drumm of the homicide squad said the investigation of Ferrie's death as far as his department is concerned will be completed by Tuesday.

He said that his office has questioned 18 people, including the youth who discovered the body. Drumm refused to comment on how the youth gained entrance to Ferrie's apartment.

DR. CHETTA said that no member of the family had contacted him about Ferrie's body but he said that an attorney who says he represents the family has contacted him. Arrangements will be made, he said, when the attorney presents evidence to him that he represents Ferrie's family. He declined to give the name of the attorney.

Dr. Chetta said that a physician who treated Ferrie as recently as last week called and

volunteered the information that Ferrie was suffering from high blood pressure and a stomach condition.

FERRIE, CALLED "one of the most important individuals in history" by Garrison in connection with his probe, died of a brain hemorrhage, according to Orleans Parish Coroner Dr. Nicholas Chetta.

He said the autopsy showed

death was caused by an aneurysm of a cerebral artery which caused blood to spill into the brain. Chetta ruled out murder as a possible cause of death.

He said the death would remain unclassified until the toxicological report is complete.

Ferrie lived in an upstairs apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy.

DR. RONALD A. WELSH, who performed the autopsy and who is a professor of

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pathology at Louisiana State University School of Medicine, said the "anatomical findings are very clear cut."

He added that Ferrie had a history of high blood pressure ranging from a "moderate to moderately severe degree" and that he had been suffering with "hypertensive cardio-vascular disease."

Dr. Chetta said, "There is no evidence of any violence. There is no evidence of murder."

YESTERDAY, GARRISON said his office will make no further statements on the

JFK probe in the near future.

"Just in case I have not made myself clear," he said, "let me say under no circumstances will I turn over any evidence we have gathered to any other agency, and this most specifically applies to agencies of the federal government which have with-

held—and continue to withhold—material which should have been turned over to law enforcement agencies having proper legal jurisdiction."

He added that the "federal government has as much jurisdiction over a murder conspiracy in New Orleans as the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.)"

FERRIE'S DEATH apparently scared other persons whose names have figured in the probe.

David Lewis, a bus station baggage clerk who claims he had knowledge of a possible conspiracy to kill Kennedy, went to Garrison's office yesterday, again expressing fear for his life.

Miguel Torres, a Cuban exile who lived a block from Oswald on Magazine st. in 1963, was transferred from a jail cell to the Parish Prison hospital. Reportedly, there was a telephone call threatening his life.

Torres was returned to New Orleans from the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola last month for questioning by Garrison's investigators.