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New Orleans States-Item

Arrest of Culprits
May Require 30
Years--Garrison

2-24-67 Final.

Authors

tide: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDT 11/23/63

District Attorney Jim Garrison said today he has "posilively solved the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and will arrest every individual involved-in the course of time."

He said, however, that "it may be 30 years before we Finish. We will make arrests, but they are not imminent." What he said was largely repetition of previous statements

which he has made about the case.

GARRISON TALKED WITH NEWSMEN as he emerged from a luncheon at the Petroleum Club. His remarks at the luncheon were not made public.

Asked if he had definitely solved the assassination plot, Garrison said, "We solved it weeks ago."

He said, "We're working out details of evidence, which probably will take months."

"WE KNOW THAT WE'RE GOING to be able to arrest every person involved—at least every person who is still living. I'm sure that there will be convictions."

Garrison said the case is "very complicated" and posed a riddle for newsmen. He said:

"The key to the whole case is through the looking glass. Black is white; white is black."

He added: "I don't want to be cryptic, but that's the way it is."

GARRISON SAID HE KNOWS THE people of the world are "champing at the bit" to get details of his investigation. He said he would give the world all the answers.

"You have my word of honor on that," he added.

Thus far, Garrison has not disclosed any snaoine details of his case, which runs counter to the official Warren Commission report that found no credible evidence of any conspiracy in the assassination of the President in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

Garrison claims there were others involved besides Lee Harvey Oswald. The Warren Report says Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy.

THE DA CONTENDS THE PLOT was hatched in New Orleans.

Garrison said the death of William David Ferrie would not slow up his investigation. He repeated his belief that Ferrie, who was found dead Wednesday, committed suicide.

"The only way people involved can avoid arrest is by committing suicide," he said.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN front of his new building at Rampart and Gravier, Joseph M. Rault Jr., head of a committee called "Truth and Consequences Inc.," a group of businessmen formed to raise money for Garrison's probe, said that about "50 of some of the most prominent members of our community" attended an organizational meeting today and pledged their assistance.

Rault said the businessmen agreed to supplement Garrison's available funds so that he might "develop the facts and the truth, whatever they may be."

Earlier, the group said it was giving Garrison a "blank check" to continue his probe.

"It would amount to a blank check that would pay the cost of the investigation for months and even years," one of the sponsors said. "We are prepared to back Jim Garrison all the way . . . five years if necessary."

When the States-Item revealed the probe's existence last week, it cited city financial records showing that some \$8,000 had been spent by the DA's office, mostly on trips.

GARRISON, ANGRY at the paper's disclosure, said he would continue the probe with borrowed funds or contributions so the paper would be unable to check on his spend-

Two businessmen, both personal friends of Garrison, were named as leaders in the "conspiracy investigation fund" move. They are Rault, president of a petroleum firm, and Willard E. Robertson, an automobile distributor.

Garrison, who contends that

President Kepnedy's death resuited from a plot hatched in New Orleans, has promised there will be arrests and convictions within a few months.

RAULT TODAY confirmed the existence of the fund to finance the continued probe. but declined to give any dollar amount.

Asked whether the fund could match the \$8,000 re-ported spent earlier, Rault anid:

"Yes. If he needs #8,000 for the next three months, he'll get it, and the three months after that. There is no time limit to this.

"We'll provide whatever he needs-no questions asked."

Rault said Garrison would net be asked to give details of the nature of any specific investigative move. He said, however, that "this is not an open-end thing. We'll evaluate what is happening as we go along.

Rault declined to identify the other businessmen who have made pledges, but said, "They cross political lines. This is a community action."

MEANWHILE, U.S. Rep. Hale Boggs of New Orleans, a member of the Warren Commission, said here last night he felt Garrison "Is acting in the best interests of

his country" in making the Investigation.

Boggs, speaking at Loyola University, said, "I would say that if the district attorney turns up evidence in the case and helps pursue the truth. he had done his country a good service."

However, Boggs said he felt the Warren Report would stand. It holds that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed the President and no conspiracy was involved.