

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Medic Indicates Natural Death

By ROSEMARY JAMES

Anatomical findings from an autopsy performed on the body of David William Ferrie indicate that Ferrie did not commit suicide.

Ferie, one of the central figures in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of President Kennedy's murder, was found dead in his apartment shortly before noon yesterday.

Although Orleans Parish Coroner Nicholas Chetta has ruled out homicide, Ferrie's death has not been classified, pending a toxicological report.

DR. RONALD A. Welsh, who performed the autopsy, told the States-Item that the "anatomical findings are very clear cut."

Ferie, he said, died of a berry aneurysm, a ruptured blood vessel at the base of the brain.

"This was a spontaneous hemorrhage," Dr. Welsh said.

Dr. Welsh is professor of pathology at Louisiana State University School of Medicine and consultant to the coroner's office in anatomical pathology.

HE SAID THAT the autopsy revealed that Ferrie had a history of high blood pressure of a "moderate to moderately severe degree" and that he was suffering from "hypertensive cardio-vascular disease."

Dr. Welsh explained that

aneurysms are weak spots in blood vessels and that a rise in blood pressure can cause these weak spots to rupture, just as a tire blows out.

Dr. Welsh said Ferrie was sitting on a "keg of dynamite" and explained that the autopsy indicated Ferrie had a previous hemorrhage, a fact which Ferrie may not have realized at the time.

MANY PEOPLE die instantly the first time an aneurysm ruptures, Dr. Welsh explained. If it's a minor leakage, however, sometimes the blood will clot and seal off the vessel rupture.

Dr. Welsh emphasized, however, that from this point on the person's life is in danger. Any little thing, he said, could cause the aneurysm to rupture again and result in instantaneous death.

Significantly, Dr. Welsh pointed out, "Severe anxiety and stress will cause the blood pressure to rise precipitously. This would then cause this weak area to burst."

OF FERRIE'S previous hemorrhage, Dr. Welsh said that it is rare that a person knows he has an aneurysm until after he has a hemorrhage. Ferrie's previous rupture would have resulted in headaches but, Dr. Welsh said, Ferrie could have believed these to be symptoms of viral encephalitis, a disease from which Ferrie said he was suffering.

Dr. Welsh emphasized that it is up to Dr. Chetta to classify the death and that no such classification could be made until all of the findings of the toxicological investigation were available.

He said, however, that the

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fatal shooting turned up Ferrie's name, along with others.

When it was discovered that Ferrrie had left town for Houston, he said, an all-night stakeout was placed on Ferrrie's apartment "about midnight, Sunday, Nov. 24."

A reporter pointed out that this was the same day that Jack Ruby shot and killed Oswald in Dallas. Asked whether the two incidents were in any way connected, Garrison said, "No comment."

Garrison stated that Ferrrie showed up at his apartment some time after midnight Monday morning, was arrested for questioning later that morning and subsequently turned over to the FBI for questioning.

THE DISTRICT attorney said his men found 40 pages of material concerning Ferrrie included in the FBI report on the assassination in the National Archives in Washington. However, he said, 36 of these pages were marked "Top Secret" and were unavailable to his investigators.

We said that the 36-volume report of the Warren Commission on the assassination mentions Ferrrie only once in passing, and then misspelled his name.

Garrison would not say whether Ferrrie's death had materially obstructed the progress of his investigation, but he did say that he was still confident "beyond a shadow of a doubt" that the investigation would eventually be drawn to a successful conclusion.

"WE'VE ALREADY gone far beyond the point that the Warren Commission ended at," Garrison asserted. He blamed the commission and the FBI for accumulating "mountains and mountains of evidence," but not evaluating it thoroughly.

"This is a problem of analysis and evaluation," he said. "We don't need more fact gathering, we need more evaluators."

Garrison stressed that "I intend to maintain control" of the investigation, and not hand over the reins to a federal agency that might "cause things to delay and bog down."