

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Garrison Files FCC Complaint Accusing NBC

Says Probe News Mis-Handled by Network

District Attorney Jim Garrison has filed a six-page complaint with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington against the National Broadcasting Co., claiming that NBC has wrongfully handled matters concerning Garrison's presidential murder probe.

In a letter to Rosel H. Hyde, chairman of the FCC, Garrison charged that NBC "has been aggressive in attacking the State of Louisiana's case (against defendant Clay L. Shaw) prior to trial as to have gone far beyond the pretense of merely gathering and disseminating news."

The text of Garrison's letter to the FCC follows:

"I wish to make a complaint against the National Broadcasting Company for its and economic help activities interfering with the prosecution of an open case now pending and soon to be tried in the Criminal District Court of Orleans Parish in the state of Louisiana. The case with which this agency is interfering is the Clay Shaw, the defendant in being charged with participation in the conspiracy to assassinate John F. Kennedy.

"The actions of the National Broadcasting Company, through its employees and agents, have been aggressive in attacking the state of Louisiana's case prior to trial as to have gone far beyond the pretense of merely gathering and disseminating news. To the contrary, the function of this agency has been used as a guise and a cover for conduct plainly intended to affect the course and outcome of the trial. The actions of this network have been so injurious to the cause of prosecution as to leave no alternative to the conclusion that the sabotage and destruction of agents of the National Broadcasting Company against the defendant has been the calculated objective of the agents and employees of this network.

The purpose of this letter is to present to the Commission a summary of these activities so as to call to your attention the curious intervention on the part of this network with regard to a pending law case in which it is not a proper party. This complaint will be followed by statements and affidavits supporting the herein charges of wrongful use by this network of its interstate communication privileges.

"This operation of the National Broadcasting Company has been directed from Washington, D.C., by Mr. Walter Sheridan, a former investigator for the United States government. Following are the acts of which complaint is hereby made:

"1. This television network for months has harbored, sheltered and encouraged a fugitive from justice from the state of Louisiana. It has provided aid and comfort and economic help to Gordon Novel in the state of Virginia, Ohio and New York. Novel has sought his return on a criminal charge lodged against him. This fugitive also has long been sought by the state of Louisiana as a witness before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury with regard to matters connected with the assassination of President Kennedy. On learning that he was to be a witness before the Grand Jury, Mr. Novel promptly sold his business and fled the state of Louisiana. Mr. Novel is, as his Louisiana attorney has admitted, a former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"2. The National Broadcasting Company has attempted to discredit, in advance of the trial, all known major witnesses of the prosecution. In the case of witness Perry Russo it has sought to discredit not only him but the objectivity of all witnesses for truth which he voluntarily took, even though the agents of the National Broadcasting Company knew well that the defendant in the case refused to take any such tests. In the case of witness Vernon Bundy, the National Broadcasting Company has solicited derogatory and false statements, for presentation prior to trial, from convicts who obviously have no knowledge of the facts but who have been cooperative with Mr. Walter Sheridan because of their common interests.

"3. Agents and employees of the National Broadcasting Company systematically have harassed witnesses for the prosecution. Every known witness for the prosecution has been approached through one device or another. One prosecution witness has been told that he should reconsider his intended testimony for the prosecution and has been offered a trip to New York to see "a \$200,000-a-year lawyer". This witness has been contacted so repeatedly that it is obvious that an effort has been made to destroy his value as a prosecution witness by harassment.

Another potential prosecution witness has been informed that if she did not want to be pictured in a bad light she had better give filmed interviews to the National Broadcasting Company's agent. The presentation has been made to each of these witnesses contacted by the National Broadcasting Company that the prosecution's case, in effect is going to be destroyed by the National Broadcasting Company and that they should get on the right side of the case before it is too late.

"4. The National Broadcasting Company arranged for a potential prosecution witness to be flown to Washington, D.C. in connection with its objective of the development of this man as a witness for the defense rather than the prosecution. One National Broadcasting Company agent went to Washington with this witness where they met other National Broadcasting Company and former United States government intelligence personnel. Subsequently, public statements attacking the

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

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SECTION 1

TIMES PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 6-18-67
Edition:
Author:
Editor:
Title: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, DALLAS, TEX.
11-22-63
Character: AFO
or
Classification: 89-
Submitting Office: N.O., LA.
 Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

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prosecution were encouraged. These incredible fictions and obtained by National Broad- which have attempted to picture a photograph obtained by the casting Company personnel and the New Orleans district at-prosecution. were filmed and distributed torney's office as dispensing, "8. During the course of the heroin and initiating burglaries, aforscribed unethical and the last-described endeavor has been accomplished not by mem- throughout the country. heroin and initiating burglaries, aforscribed unethical and the last-described endeavor has been accomplished not by mem- bers of the station itself, but by "In connection with this wit- although obviously false, were fraudulent activities by the Na- nesses, a demonstrably false and solicited by Mr. Walter Sheridan tional Broadcasting Company, bers of the station itself, but by an attorney closely connected altered tape purporting to por- and his agents, and have been its agents and employes have an attorney closely connected tray a bribe offered by the pros- passed on by them to other worked in concert with repre- with the station who has pre- ecution, was publicized national- news media as "news stories", sentatives of the defendant. The- viously been known to disperse ly by the National Broadcasting It is apparent that the National relationship of the National funds in the New Orleans area Company. A subsequent investi- Broadcasting Company intends Broadcasting Company and the in behalf of the Central Intelli- gation by the New Orleans Poli- defense has been sufficiently- gence Agency. ce Department has revealed to employ these fraudulent close that in recent weeks a "The deleterious effect of such that no bribery attempt was statements on a nation-wide, member of the defendant's legal, undue pressures on the prosec- made by the prosecution but television as a part of its effort, staff has been known to state, cution's witnesses predictably that the said tape had been al- to discredit the prosecution casting Company gets finished has been quite notable. It does not take much imagination to altered to make this appear to prior to trial. Such witnesses obviously could never be pre- tional television, the prosecu- envision the effect on potential jurors who are being exposed through their television sets to this unauthorized pre-trial ad- vocation. vacy. be the case. It is not known by this office whether or not the fraudulent alternation of the tape was made by National Broadcasting Company person- nel but we have learned that at an early stage in these activi- ties a copy of this tape was ob- tained by and was in the hands of Mr. Walter Sheridan, who has been particularly active in recent years in adventures in- volving the use of tapes and bugging equipment. "5. Agents and employees of the National Broadcasting Com- pany knowingly have solicited from prisoners convicted by the New Orleans district attorney's office, demonstrably false charges against the prosecution with the plain objective of creating a wide-spread belief, prior to trial, that the prosecu- tion has no case against the de- fendant and is therefore resort- ing to illegal activities. From Miguel Torres, an armed robber and narcotics addict convicted by his office, the National Broadcasting Company has soli- cited the statement that the prosecution "offered him money was paid by the Na- heroin" to give false testimony. From "John the Baptist" Can- a potential witness for a copy- cler, a professional burglar con- victed by his office, the Na- tional Broadcasting Company has solicited the statement that the prosecution sought to have him burglarize the defendant's home so as to place false evi- dence therein.

"6. The National Broadcasting Company, under the active supervision of Mr. Walter Sheridan, has sought to obtain tape recordings of conversations among members of the district attorney's staff concerning the pending case. "7. The National Broadcasting Company, under the active supervision of Mr. Sheridan, has attempted to buy copies of evidence which might be used by the prosecution in the trial of the case. In one instance, according to information obtained by this office, a large sum of money was paid by the Na- tional Broadcasting Company to a potential witness for a copy-

"Ordinarily, the effort to dis- credit the prosecution's case is a function of the defense. This is the first time, to my knowl- edge, that a national television network has actively sought to torpedo a pending law case prior to trial. "It should be noted that in the course of its efforts to ob- struct justice, the National Broadcasting Company has been actively aided by its New Or- leans associate, WDSU-TV. The participation of WDSU-TV in- cluded harassment of potential prosecution witnesses by at least one member of its staff, biased presentation of the issues in- volved in presenting its "news" programs and "editorials", plainly intended to discredit the prosecution in this case, and the dispersal of funds to at- torneys and other individuals.

participating in the effort to damage the state's case prior to trial. It should be added that the last-described endeavor has been accomplished not by mem- bers of the station itself, but by an attorney closely connected with the station who has pre- viously been known to disperse funds in the New Orleans area in behalf of the Central Intelli- gence Agency. "The deleterious effect of such undue pressures on the prosecu- tion's witnesses predictably has been quite notable. It does not take much imagination to envision the effect on potential jurors who are being exposed through their television sets to this unauthorized pre-trial ad- vocation. "The special bias and unique aggressiveness of the National Broadcasting Company's inva- sion of this pending law case is particularly marked in con- trast to the objective and fair approach of the other two tele- vision networks. Whatever the motivation might be, it is clear that the National Broadcasting Company has as its objective the total destruction of the pend- ing investigation into the assass- ination of President John F. Kennedy and of the pending case related to that assassina- tion. This company, which ex- ists primarily for profit-making purposes, should not be allowed to use the public air waves to accomplish such mean ends." Very truly yours, JIM GARRISON, District Attorney.