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Investigator Quits Garrison's Staff and Assails Inquiry Into Plot

By GENE ROBERTS
Special to The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS, June 26—A key investigator for District Attorney Jim Garrison quit his job today and said that he had found "no truth" to Mr. Garrison's contention that a conspiracy led to the assassination of President Kennedy.

The investigator, William H. Gurvich, also urged the Orleans Parish grand jury to start an immediate investigation into the way Mr. Garrison has conducted his assassination inquiry.

Mr. Gurvich told the grand jury in a telegram that he was prepared "to give evidence of travesties of justice on the part of the District Attorney in the case of Louisiana vs. Clay Shaw."

Mr. Garrison's office arrested Mr. Shaw on March 1 and accused him of participating in a plot that led to President Kennedy's death.

"If there is any truth to any of Garrison's charges about there being a conspiracy, I haven't been able to find it," Mr. Gurvich said tonight in an interview.

Barred From Office

Mr. Gurvich quit the District Attorney's staff after one of Mr. Garrison's aides barred him from the District Attorney's office today.

Mr. Garrison's staff was apparently angry over statements Mr. Gurvich made to The New York Times over the weekend about the Kennedy investigation.

Mr. Gurvich had told a Times reporter he had "grave misgivings" about the investigation and planned to tell Mr. Garrison as much at a conference today.

Mr. Garrison, however, refused to participate in the conference and the District Attorney,



United Press International
William H. Gurvich

reference and released a statement calling Mr. Gurvich's comments "the latest move from the Eastern headquarters of the Establishment to attempt to discredit our investigation."

"It becomes increasingly apparent," he added, "that elements of the Federal Government are absolutely desperate in their attempt to prevent the people of this country from finding out what really happened in Dallas."

When Mr. Gurvich attempted to walk past a guard rail today and enter Mr. Garrison's office, his path was blocked by Louis W. Ivon, an investigator who had worked with both Mr. Gurvich and the District Attorney,

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ENCLOSURE

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"Have I been fired?" Mr. Gurrivich asked.

"I don't know anything about that," Mr. Ivon said.

"May I come in?" Mr. Gurrivich asked.

"No you can't," Mr. Ivon told him. "The boss wanted you to wait outside."

Half-Hour Limit

Soon after this exchange, James Alcock, Assistant District Attorney, showed Mr. Gurrivich to a back office. But Mr. Gurrivich returned to the guard rail within 15 minutes and announced that he was not going to wait any longer for the District Attorney.

"I don't wait for anyone longer than a half hour," he said.

Late this afternoon Mr. Gurrivich told newsmen in an interview that he had sent a letter of resignation to Mr. Garrison. And tonight he said in an interview that he had quit the District Attorney's staff "because I could not meet with Mr. Garrison to ask him to re-evaluate the investigation and drop the charges against Clay Shaw."

He said Mr. Garrison had "no case" against Mr. Shaw and that he would support this assertion with "specifics" if he was allowed to appear before the grand jury.

He also said he would welcome an opportunity to appear before a Federal grand jury to give evidence that Mr. Garrison had "violated the civil rights of several people—including Mr. Shaw."

He declined to elaborate on his charges in tonight's interview, except to assert that Mr. Garrison had failed to prove "even basic charges" against Mr. Shaw.

He said that much of Mr.

Garrison's case had been built around testimony given to the Warren Commission by Dean Andrews, a New Orleans lawyer.

Mr. Andrews told Federal investigators that a New Orleans homosexual named "Clay Bertrand" had sent Lee Harvey Oswald to his law office with a legal problem several months before the assassination. The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald killed Mr. Kennedy alone and unaided.

Although Mr. Andrews has said that Clay Shaw is not "Clay Bertrand," Mr. Garrison said at the time of Mr. Shaw's arrest that Clay Shaw and Clay Bertrand were the same person.

Evidence Is Denied

"Garrison has no evidence at all to support this claim," Mr. Gurrivich said. "Not even Perry Russo [Mr. Garrison's chief witness] says that Clay Shaw is Clay Bertrand. Perry Russo referred to Shaw as Clem Bertrand and never as 'Clay Bertrand.'"

Members of the Warren Commission staff have also said that they conducted an extensive search for a Clay Bertrand in New Orleans and were not able to find any evidence that such a man existed here.

The Warren Commission pointed out in its report that Mr. Andrews once told investigators that Clay Bertrand was a figment of his imagination but then later insisted that there was a man by that name in this city.

Mr. Gurrivich also said tonight that he had begun to doubt the wisdom of Mr. Garrison's investigation within two weeks after becoming involved in it but had said nothing at the time because he wanted to "give Jim Garrison the benefit of the doubt."

"You know how those things are," he said. "One thing leads to another and once you get involved in something it's hard to

quit. But finally I decided that it had just gone too far."

He said, too, that if he had quit earlier he would not have been in a position "to give evidence to a grand jury."

Although Mr. Garrison publicly congratulated Mr. Gurrivich in February for his work on the assassination case and allowed him to announce the Shaw arrest four months ago, he denied today that Mr. Gurrivich was his chief investigator or had ever been on his office's payroll.

Garrison Statement

"Some months ago Mr. Gurrivich, who operates a night watchman service, appeared out of the blue and offered his assistance to our investigation," Mr. Garrison said. "After a few months, he just as quickly disappeared from view."

"One of Mr. Gurrivich's increasing complaints, however, was that he felt that he was not being given enough information about the investigation itself," Mr. Garrison said. He went on:

"One of the reasons we did not give him all of our information was that we soon learned that he was having meetings with Mr. Walter Sheridan, a former Federal investigator now working for the National Broadcasting Company. From that time on, Mr. Gurrivich's assignments were limited to photography, chaffering and other technical work of a limited nature until he faded out of view about six weeks ago."

Mr. Gurrivich, who operates a private detective agency, has worked for Mr. Garrison for several years as a "dollar-a-year" man. Mr. Gurrivich told reporters that Mr. Garrison made him chief investigator at the outset of the Kennedy investigation and told him that he would be placed on salary. But, he said, he never received any salary.