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FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1967

*Assassination of President  
John F. Kennedy*

*file  
on  
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Paul Harvey News

BAR ASSOCIATION MUST JUDGE GARRISON

By Paul Harvey

New Orleans! District Attorney Garrison, in the beginning, thought he had something. Everybody identified with his early reinvestigation of the Kennedy assassination concurs, "Garrison sincerely believed others than Oswald were involved..."

What misled Garrison and his financial backers in the first place is the fact that there always exist a few fanatics who are writing or talking of assassinating the President. Such letters are regularly traced by our FBI and some prosecutions result.

During the dark days following the abortive Cuban invasion there must have been scores of vituperative card-table threats directed at President Kennedy. Garrison sought to add up some hearsay, some letters and some otherwise unsavory characters into a dark and devious plot. But if his early suspicions were excusable, his subsequent conduct was not.

As early as March 1, 1967, when Garrison's first bold allegations broke into public print, I went to New Orleans to evaluate his evidence. I wrote to you from there that Garrison was "over-running his headlights," that he was likely to "damage irreparably the reputations of innocent persons."

But Garrison persisted in his probe and the more his "evidence" evaporated, the more stubborn he became.

Finally, according to his own former chief investigator, William Gurvich, "Garrison became obsessed with the theory of a conspiracy."

If Garrison's early motives had included personal political ambition, now his idea became to stir up enough stink so that there would always be a question mark. My mail suggests that no matter how thoroughly Garrison may be discredited, a lot of his voting-age constituents are going to continue to cling to that question mark.

(MORE)

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That is sad, for it means the very purpose of a free press -- to inform -- has been profaned. It is to the credit of the local papers in New Orleans that they were not misled, but in dutifully reporting the public utterances of their District Attorney they, however inadvertently, contributed to the subsequent assassination of innocent reputations. The press was "used" in a manner contrary to all that our system of jurisprudence stands for; citizens were guilty until they proved themselves innocent!

Gurvich, disassociating himself from Garrison, said, "People in my city are being yanked in off the street and disgraced." He says Garrison "once planned a midnight raid on the local FBI office."

CBS, evaluating the evidence, concluded that Garrison has used "unethical and illegal methods." NBC said that his probe is "unsupported by evidence."

New Orleans' Metropolitan Crime Commission, hearing that Garrison has used threats and bribes in his desperation to build up a case, has asked Louisiana Attorney General Gremillion to investigate Garrison.

Gremillion has so far refused. The Bar Association must act.

If the legal profession is to deserve our continuing confidence and respect, it must deal promptly and decisively with its own transgressors.

(Copr. T-M, 1967 Gen. Fea. Corp.)