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INTERVIEW WITH JIM GARRISON

NEWSCASTER: A controversial visitor here in New York. For that story here is Dick Reeves.

DICK REEVES: Jim Garrison, the New Orleans District Attorney, is currently in town helping to publicize a long interview published in the October Playboy. Yesterday Garrison, who has gained some fame for his independent inquiry into the Kennedy assassination, charged that some members of the Dallas police force were involved in the killing; that there were members of the right wing Minutemen group involved too; and that the sponsors were rich, from Texas, in oil.

Well, these are relatively new additions to the Garrison assassination theory, which already allegedly includes anti-Castro exiles and alleged federal government efforts to prevent what Garrison calls the real truth from emerging.

Today I asked Garrison why he is releasing this story in bits and pieces.

JIM GARRISON: So that it is believable, because for all the... the seal of approval to this complete fraud. If I came out with the whole -- I'm not coming out with the whole thing now.

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REEVES: Why don't you wait?

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GARRISON: Why don't I wait?

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REEVES: In other words, so far you are not giving evidence that would stand up in any court, as far as I know, at least. You're making statements.

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GARRISON: I can't give you evidence. I'm sitting here making statements because you asked me to make statements.

REEVES: Well, why don't you just...

GARRISON: Just let me finish it. Didn't you want me to come make statements?

REEVES: But you won't talk about Clay Shaw, for example.

GARRISON: Because I'm not going to hurt his rights before trial.

REEVES: Well aren't you hurting the rights of, you know...

GARRISON: Name one person.

REEVES: Well, you say the Dallas police force, a few people involved. To a certain, you know, you're putting a question on the whole Dallas police force.

GARRISON: No, I'm not. I just finished telling you that most of the police force was not involved. I'm trying to bring the truth in gradual steps so it can be digested, that's all. If you prefer, I won't say anything about it.

REEVES: Wouldn't it be better to take the whole thing, and put it all out at once, when you can present material in a court of law?

GARRISON: I can't present material in a court of law about Dallas, because it's not in my jurisdiction. Then I would never bring it up.

REEVES: The whole conspiracy thing.

GARRISON: Well, how can I bring the whole conspiracy thing out until we complete it. We won't be completed for two more years. Why shouldn't I let the American people know something about what's happened, as we reach a point where we can release an element? Why wait two years? I may not be alive in two years. Why don't I bring it out when I can, when I'm still here, so that they know there was a fraud?

Naturally if I wait two years and I'm not alive, there won't anything for them to know about and the fraud will be successful. I can't wait to bring it out in court because I just have a little corner of the tapestry.

Will there be others involved, other portions?

GARRISON: No, those are the essential portions. There's a

Nazi type oriented individual, extremely wealthy individuals of Nazi persuasion, some of the White Russians, the Minutemen structure of the Dallas police force, and the anti-Castro adventurers and some of the counterparts of these people in New Orleans. Those are all the forces involved, although there are individuals in different groups who are from Florida, a number from California. Those are all individuals.

But I don't understand why you object to my bringing out some of the truth. I could easily keep it hidden. But then I would be doing a disservice; simply because I don't have jurisdiction over Dallas doesn't mean that the U. S. and the Dallas police department should be successful in the fraud.

REEVES: Well, occasionally though it's going to be successful, because you say they won't be...

GARRISON: No, it is not going to be successful because I'm going to keep bringing out the facts.

REEVES: Jim Garrison says he is not concerned about his enemies. He says he normally carries a gun and has a bodyguard, but usually doesn't think about the possibility there may be attempts on his life.