

Sunday World Herald

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Garrison Probe Keeps Swirling—

D.A. Denies He Once Hired Omahan

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison denied Saturday that Thomas Edward Beckham ever worked as an investigator in the Garrison office.

Mr. Garrison's statement in New Orleans contradicts an assertion here Friday by Mr. Beckham, the Omaha evangelist-entertainer-shop operator, who has been subpoenaed in Mr. Garrison's investigation of an alleged conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.

Other developments Saturday:

—Omaha attorney John Slova, who said he is personally acquainted with Mr. Garrison, said he will represent Mr. Beckham in the subpoena matter and in several civil cases here.

—Loran Eugene Hall, also subpoenaed by Mr. Garrison, is a former resident of Omaha and Wichita, Kans.

—Fort Lauderdale, Fla., authorities said they were unaware of a "Faith Bible College and Theological Seminary" there where Mr. Beckham said he received three degrees, including a "doctor of psychology" degree last June. But a mail-order institution once operated there under that name.

—Lincoln authorities said Mr. Beckham lived at 4821 South Street, Lincoln, before moving to Omaha last spring.



—UPI Telephoto.

Hall... Ex-Omahan.

—A onetime associate of Mr. Beckham in a second-hand merchandise store run by "B and L Enterprises" is a Strategic Air Command officer in the Directorate of Operations. He is Lieut. Col. L. E. Lowry.

• Beckham Unreachable •
Mr. Beckham, apparently in Council Bluffs with his family, was unavailable for comment.

Mr. Garrison Friday subpoenaed Messrs Beckham and Hall and Lawrence J. Howard, Jr., of Los Angeles as material witnesses, saying they were "in a unique position to ob-

serve activities relevant to the assassination." All three denied knowledge of the assassination.

Mr. Garrison identified Mr. Beckham as a former "priest" in the "Old Orthodox Catholic Church of North America," a sect in which the late Dave Ferrie also was a priest.

Mr. Garrison has labeled Mr. Ferrie one of the conspirators in the alleged plot to kill President Kennedy.

"In his role as a priest,"

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New Orleans D.A. Denies Hiring Subpoenaed Omahan

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said Mr. Garrison, Mr. Beckham "often wore a black suit with his collar reversed. He was an associate of David Ferrie's and of Sergio Arcacha, the erstwhile leader in New Orleans of the Cuban exile revolutionary front."

"Ferie Link in 1963"

"Information has been obtained," he said, "that Thomas Beckham in 1963 was in association with David Ferrie and various other individuals at 531 Lafayette Street, which is the same office building described as 544 Camp Street, the address originally used on leaflets handed out by Lee Oswald in New Orleans."

Oswald has been named by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin of President Kennedy.

Mr. Beckham has denied knowing Oswald, Mr. Arcacha "or any one else connected with the thing." Mr. Beckham, who uses the stage name of Mark Evans, has said he was never in Dallas, scene of the assassination, until 1966.

Mr. Garrison's subpoena charges that Mr. Beckham "was in association with certain Cuban exiles in New Orleans in whose company Lee Oswald was seen." It said Mr. Beckham "had knowledge of Central Intelligence Agency-sponsored guerrilla training conducted near New Orleans; that he had knowledge of the Intelligence activities in the office of W. Guy Banister, that he subsequently was reported to be in Dallas in November of 1963 with one of the aforementioned Cuban exiles."

Move Advised

New Orleans reporters have identified Mr. Banister as a former Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency representative.

Omaha attorney Sloma said he became acquainted with Mr. Beckham through long-time clients who gave Mr. Beckham 57 hundred dollars for his church and now want it back.

Mr. Sloma said he advised Mr. Beckham to move to Iowa "if he needed time to gather his wits" and determine what to do about the Garrison subpoena. Iowa is not a party to an interstate pact providing for the free exchange of material witnesses in major criminal cases. Nebraska and Louisiana are signees.

"Captured by Castro"

Mr. Hall's mother, Mrs. Jack F. Hall of Wichita, verified in a telephone interview that the Halls lived in Omaha in 1956, 1957 and part of 1958.

Asked about the subpoena ordering her son to appear before a New Orleans grand jury, Mrs. Hall said, "About as phony a thing as I ever heard tell of."

Mrs. Hall said her husband managed the Omaha branch of the L. B. Price Mercantile Company, 5222 North Thirtieth Street. An official of the company said he knew Jack Hall but didn't recall his son.

Mrs. Hall said her son, who is 37, called her and said: "Mom, you know I don't know anything about the assassination. They don't have a thing on me. I don't know what Garrison wants with me."

"The only reason Garrison did this is because our son

was captured by Castro," Mrs. Hall said.

Arrest in 1959

Newspaper files show that Mr. Hall was arrested in 1959 by the Castro Government for investigation of an alleged plot to form an expeditionary force to overthrow the Government of Nicaragua. Mrs. Hall said he was in "nine different prisons" in his four-months of imprisonment.

She said her son, a former United States Army military policeman who was discharged in 1952, sold mobile homes in Kernville, Cal., and has been taking tests to become a real estate agent.

Both Messrs Hall and Howard are mentioned in the Warren Commission Report on the assassination.

The report said, "Hall has been identified as a participant in numerous anti-Castro activities. He told the FBI that in September of 1963 he was in Dallas, soliciting aid in connection with anti-Castro activities." The report said Mr. Hall was questioned on whether Oswald was involved in a conspiracy.

Teenage Disc Jockey

Saturday in Kernville, Mr. Hall said he is concerned about his life. He said he would appeal to the sheriff's office for protection because of what he called the high mortality rate among persons connected with Mr. Garrison's investigation, United Press International said.

The Rev. Ralph Colburn of the Grace Brethren Church, Fort Lauderdale, said the Faith school was a mail-order institution which went out of business.

It had no resident student or buildings, but offered degrees to students who could answer a few questions and pay the fee, the Rev. Mr. Colburn said.

The Fort Lauderdale News said the school was investigated by the Fort Lauderdale Ministerial Association about three years ago.

Teen Announcer

Sources in Omaha and New Orleans said Mr. Beckham: 24 years old, married and the father of a daughter about two years old. It was learned he had worked as "teenage disc jockey" at New Orleans radio station; age 14. Friday, Mr. Beckham had said he was 27 and not married.

He has said he is a "bishop in the Universal Life Church which was at 1727 Leaverworth Street and at 290 North Sixteenth Street, Omaha, but recently held services in members' garages.

Burd Yager, who manages a building at 1727 Leaverworth Street, said Mr. Beckham came to Omaha last spring and rented the first floor store where he went into a short-lived second-hand merchandise business.

Association Confirmed

A handbill, furnished by M. Yager, advertises "B & L Enterprises Thrift Shoppe" and lists Mr. Beckham and Colonel Lowry as the owners.

Colonel Lowry, of 1241 Turner Circle in Capcha housing, confirmed that he was "in business a couple of months" and that he knew Mr. Beckham "about a year."

Colonel Lowry declined further comment except to say Mr. Beckham was a "fine gentleman."

ENCLOSURE 62-109020



Beckham . . . Ex-Lincolnite.

—World-Herald Photo.

ENCLOSURE

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