

Assassination Probe Extended To Mexico

By JAIME PLENN

Reports of a mysterious visitor retracing the steps of Lee Harvey Oswald here gave rise to conjectures yesterday that New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination may have spread to Mexico.

At least seven persons, including a young woman employed by the local Cuban Embassy, yesterday were questioned by federal security officers in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy, it was revealed here.

Officers said the questioning led to disclosure of at least 14 names and information on persons directly or indirectly related to Lee Harvey Oswald.

Among those questioned was the person in charge of the boarding house where Oswald stayed when he visited Mexico



GARRISON



FERRIE



LEWIS



OSWALD

NEW ORLEANS—District Attorney Jim Garrison (left) has launched an investigation of what he calls "the conspiracy" which preceded the assassination of Pres. Kennedy. "An important individual" according to Garrison was David W. Ferrie, 49, who was found dead in his apartment Feb. 22. David Lewis Jr., 26, a baggage handler in a bus station, said he knew of five persons involved in the "conspiracy" and that he feared for his life. Garrison said recently, "I have no reason to believe at this time that Lee Harvey Oswald killed anybody in Dallas on Nov. 22." Left to right are: Garrison; Ferrie; Lewis, Jr.; and Oswald. (UPI telephoto from files.)

trying to get a visa to Russia.

Security officers clamped a tight lid on their

investigation, but it was learned that new information had been brought out.

Oswald, it had been said, was seen here several times shortly before the assassination in a hotel at Calle Arcos de Belén, where anti-Castroite Cu-

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hans frequently met.

It also was learned that the persons questioned told police that Oswald had been in contact with various American nationals during his stay in this city.

The unidentified American asking questions was reported by employees of the hotel where Oswald stayed less than two months before President Kennedy was slain, and by the owner of a small restaurant where he ate a frugal meal daily.

Oswald was here in late September and early October of 1963, and during his stay tried to obtain visas from the Soviet and Cuban embassies for a visit to either country.

His trip to Mexico, with some details of his stay, were included in the Warren Commission report.

Police sources here said it would be "logical" for Garrison's investigators to check Mexico because of his probe into relations with exiled Cubans in Florida and other southern U.S. states.

Thousands of Cuban exiles live in Mexico, and there is a steady flow of travel among exiles between Miami and Mexico, the sources said.

One of the versions circulating here is that there may have been a conspiracy to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. Oswald's attempt to reach Havana was frustrated by a denial of the visa.

In New Orleans, Oswald had appeared publicly as a

short-time member of "Fair Play for Cuba Committee," which some investigators characterized as a "cover."

Dolores Ramirez, the lunchroom owner, and Sebastian Pérez, employe of the small hotel where Oswald stayed, reported the recent appearance of the unidentified man asking questions.

The man was especially interested in learning whether Oswald had been seen with any other person here or had talked to anyone.

However, they recalled that at least in the hotel and lunch room neighborhood he was always alone. He ate one meal a day there, consisting always of rice, meat, bread and water, Mrs. Ramirez recalled. It cost him less than four pesos, she said.

He always looked into the window, and delayed entering, as if waiting for other customers to leave. Then he sat in a corner, with his back at the wall, and his face hidden by a newspaper.

Pérez, the hotel employe, said he had exchanged a few words briefly with Oswald during his four-day stay. He said Oswald did not make or receive telephone calls, nor did he have any visitors at the hotel. But he was away from the place most of the time.

Mrs. Ramirez and Pérez said that a few days after the assassination, Mexican federal police had been around to ask some questions. No Warren Commission investigators were recalled by them.