

Tolson ✓  
 DeLoach ✓  
 Mohr ✓  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt ✓  
 Gale ✓  
 Rosen ✓  
 Sullivan ✓  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*file 62-109060*

*file*

*Leubsdorf*

*file*

323A HFR

*Assassination of President John F. Kennedy*

PLOT 3/1 WA  
 ADV FOR AM'S SUN MARCH 5, OR THEREAFTER  
 (EDITOR'S NOTE: MERRIMAN SMITH, UPI WHITE HOUSE REPORTER WHO WON THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR HIS COVERAGE OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, WENT TO NEW ORLEANS LAST WEEK TO LOOK INTO CHARGES THAT THE MURDER OF THE YOUNG PRESIDENT INVOLVED A CONSPIRACY SPAWNED IN LOUISIANA. FOLLOWING IS HIS REPORT.)

BY MERRIMAN SMITH  
 UPI WHITE HOUSE REPORTER

NEW ORLEANS (UPI)--FOR A NATION--AND A WORLD--STILL DISTRESSED BY THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY, A NEW AND DISMAYING CHAPTER IS BEING WRITTEN HERE IN THE MURDER OF THE YOUNG PRESIDENT.

THE CENTRAL FIGURE IS JIM GARRISON, POLITICALLY AMBITIOUS DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF ORLEANS PARISH. HE IS AN ENORMOUS MAN WHO HAS A BASSO PROFUNDO/ROBUSTO VOICE AND AN INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUE TO MATCH. AT TIMES, HE LOOKS AND ACTS MUCH LIKE THE LATE SEN. HUEY P. LONG WHOSE ROMAN CIRCUS TALENTS STILL ARE REMEMBERED FONDLY IN SOME AREAS OF THE STATE.

GARRISON'S EVIDENCE COMES IN PART FROM SOME OF THE SEAMIEST SIDES OF THE NEW ORLEANS DEMI MONDE. IT INCLUDES WITNESSES BEDEVILED BY BOOZE, PILLS AND PSYCHONEUROSES--PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE SOCIETY HAS WRONGED THEM SINCE BIRTH.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FIRM INTENTION IS TO PROVE THAT KENNEDY'S DEATH WAS PLANNED IN NEW ORLEANS BY AMERICAN, CUBAN, AND CUBAN, IN RETRIBUTION FOR THE 1962 BAY OF PIGS INVASION AND FOR THE PRESIDENT'S FAILURE TO PULL DOWN CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO.

GARRISON'S INVESTIGATION PRODUCED ITS FIRST ARREST WEDNESDAY NIGHT. CLAY SHAW, 54, FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE MART AT NEW ORLEANS, WAS CHARGED WITH PARTICIPATING IN A CONSPIRACY TO MURDER PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

GARRISON WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN A SPOKESMAN FOR HIS OFFICE ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OUTSIDE THE LOCKED DOORS OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. THE NATURE OF SHAW'S ALLEGED CONSPIRACY WAS NOT DISCLOSED, BUT GARRISON PROMISED THROUGH HIS SPOKESMAN THAT MORE ARRESTS WOULD FOLLOW.

WHETHER GARRISON CAN PROVE HIS OVERALL CASE IS ANOTHER MATTER. AT THIS POINT, IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT THE INVESTIGATION AND PROMISED COURT TRIALS WILL PRODUCE MUCH MORE THAN THE FACT THAT SOME CUBANS IN NEW ORLEANS IN 1962-63 AND SOME AMERICAN ODDBALLS DID INDEED SPEAK WISHFULLY OF SEEING KENNEDY KILLED.

GARRISON HOPES TO PROVE THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD SAT IN THESE SORDID COUNCILS BEFORE GOING TO DALLAS WHERE KENNEDY WAS SLAIN. THAT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE WARREN COMMISSION CONCLUSION THAT OSWALD WAS THE SELF ASSASSIN AND WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY CONSPIRACY, FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC. GARRISON DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS. HE BELIEVES THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE OSWALD "DIDN'T KILL ANYBODY"; THAT AT THE MOST, OSWALD MAY HAVE FIRED THE SHOTS THAT WOUNDED GOV. JOHN CONNALLY OF TEXAS AND HIT KENNEDY IN THE THROAT, BUT THAT THE KILLING SHOT WHICH HIT THE YOUNG PRESIDENT'S HEAD CAME FROM ANOTHER GUN, ANOTHER ASSASSIN.

WITH ALL RESPECT TO THE HARD-DRIVING, HARD-LIVING 45-YEAR-OLD DISTRICT ATTORNEY, HIS CASE SO FAR HAS TO BE DESCRIBED AS FLIMSY. IN HIS CURRENTLY POWERFUL POSITION, HE CAN ARREST ALMOST ANYONE FOR ANYTHING. BUT PROOF WILL COME HARDER, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING THE CREDIBILITY OF SOME OF HIS SOURCES. HAVING TO WORK WITH SUCH INFORMANTS DOES NOT DISMAY GARRISON. HE HAS PUSHED HIMSELF ALMOST TO THE POINT OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL EXHAUSTION TO COMPLETE WHAT HE CONSIDERS A DURABLE CASE. AND HE BELIEVES HE HAS IT.

I SPENT HOURS TALKING WITH GARRISON--IN A DIGNIFIED OLD RESTAURANT NESTLED IN THE CITY'S FAMOUS FRENCH QUARTER AND IN THE BOOK-LINED STUDY OF HIS SPACIOUS HOME IN A NEW SECTION OFF OF ST. BERNARD AVENUE.

SIPPING AN INCREDIBLE MIXTURE OF CREAM SODA AND GIN, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SEEMED WRACKED BY EXHAUSTION AND SPOKE OF GETTING AWAY FOR A FEW DAYS TO SLEEP AND SUN-BATHE. IF HE HAS ANY INNER DOUBTS ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF HIS CASE, HE DOESN'T SHOW IT. HE EXUDES SCORN FOR HIS DETRACTORS, OF WHOM THERE ARE MANY IN NEW ORLEANS.

"WE HAVE DEFINITELY FOUND OUT HOW THEY KILLED PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND WE'RE GOING TO PROVE IT," HE TOLD ME.

REMINDING OF HIS OFT-STATED PROMISE OF FORTHCOMING ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS, HE WAS ASKED ABOUT TIMING.

"I'M NOT GOING TO BE STAMPEDED INTO IT," HE SAID. "I'M INTERESTED IN GATHERING FACTS AND PROVING THEM IN COURT, NOT IN GETTING PREMATURE HEADLINES. I'M GOING TO GET EVERY LAST MAN INVOLVED IN KILLING PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND A NUMBER OF OTHER PERSONS WHO, IN MY JUDGMENT, ARE ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT."

HISTORY MAY NOT BE CHANGED APPRECIABLY BY THE GARRISON INVESTIGATION, BUT IT COULD INFLUENCE HIS OWN POLITICAL FORTUNES. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE TALK THAT HIS FRIENDS MAY PUSH HIM FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR THIS FALL. OF SUCH TALK, GARRISON SAYS, "I COULDN'T CARE LESS." FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE ARGOT OF POLITICIANS, THIS IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

GARRISON, WHO FOUGHT THIS TOWN'S CRIMINAL COURT JUDGES TO A LANDMARK DECISION BY THE U.S. SUPREME COURT AND WON, IS NOT OVERLY IMPRESSED BY THE FACT THAT THE WARREN COMMISSION, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. SECRET SERVICE AND HUNDREDS OF STATE AND LOCAL POLICE INVESTIGATORS BELIEVED OSWALD ACTED ALONE.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS CONVINCED, AS ARE MANY PRIVATE CITIZENS HERE AND ABROAD, THAT THE COMMISSION STOPPED FAR SHORT OF A FULL INQUIRY AND THUS MISSED THE TRUTH.

THE MOVING SPIRIT BEHIND THIS NEW INVESTIGATION IS, IN FACT, HIGHLY ANTI-WASHINGTON EXCEPT FOR GARRISON'S WARM ATTITUDE TOWARD SEN. RUSSELL LONG, D-LA., WHOM HE SAYS ENCOURAGED HIM TO UNDERTAKE THE INQUIRY. GARRISON WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SHOW UP THE COMMISSION AND PARTICULARLY THE FBI, FOR WHICH HE WORKED AS AN AGENT FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS IN 1952.

THE SIX-FOOT-SIX DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHO PACKS A REVOLVER UNDER HIS COAT (SOMETIMES HE FORGETS THE GUN AND WEARS ONLY THE HOLSTER), REFUSES ACIDLY TO SHARE HIS INVESTIGATION AT THIS STAGE WITH THE FBI OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY WHICH FAILED TO TURN UP THE EVIDENCE WHICH HE NOW HAS.

"I SEE NO REASON TO DELAY THIS INVESTIGATION ANOTHER THREE YEARS," HE SAID.

WHAT MAKES GARRISON SO CONFIDENT OF ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE? THE IOWA NATIVE AND 1950 LAW GRADUATE OF TULANE UNIVERSITY SAYS HIS FILES ARE OVERFLOWING WITH EVIDENCE.

IT MUST BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT MUCH OF THIS EVIDENCE IS BASED ON THE WORDS AND DEEDS OF MEN AND WOMEN OF KNOWN INSTABILITY. DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, OF COURSE, MUST LISTEN ENDLESSLY TO STOOL PIGEONS, DRUNKS, DOPE-HEADS AND DOWNRIGHT NUTS.

MOST VMORE  
NX1129PES