

# TV WHAT'S ON? RADIO

## NBC's Garrison Special Is a Calculated TV Risk

By KAY GARDELLA 85

(Reprinted from yesterday's late editions)

NBC News, frequently accused of playing it safe in its news specials, took a calculated risk Monday night with an explosive, hour-long indictment of the investigative

methods used by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. The special could blow the lid off the pending Clay Shaw conspiracy trial.

The men behind the hour, "JFK Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison," produced by Fred Freed and featuring correspondents Frank McGee and Walter Sheridan, walked out on a shaky limb to achieve one unmistakable aim: to make public some discrepancies in statements made by Garrison's key witnesses via on and off screen taped interviews.

One witness, Fred Leemans, who once ran a Turkish bath in New Orleans, said Garrison's investigator Robert E. Lee told him he would be helped to raise \$2,500 he wanted for a night club lease if he remembered that Clay L. Shaw had used the name of Clay Bertrand and had visited his baths with someone named Lee.

### Witness Identifies Shaw

It was Perry Raymond Russo, one of Garrison's chief witnesses, who identified Clay Shaw as Clay Bertrand in a New Orleans court room.

NBC charged that Russo and Vernon Bundy, another witness, and ex-dope addict, had been given lie detector tests prior to Garrison's hearings and they didn't exactly pass with flying colors. The network further stated that Clay, or Clem Bertrand does exist but he is not Clay Shaw.

According to Frank McGee, Clem Bertrand is a pseudonym for a homosexual in New Orleans. The identity of the man who used it was not revealed, but McGee said an NBC reporter has met him, his name has been given to the FBI and he is definitely not Clay Shaw.

### 'Never Heard of Oswald'

A film of a TV interview made prior to the hearings was shown. In it, Russo said: "I never heard of Oswald (Lee Harvey) until the television assassination." Two weeks later, Frank McGee pointed out, Russo identified Oswald and

Clay Shaw and described in detail the party they were supposed to have attended where the alleged conspiracy was hatched.

Details of the party were uncovered by Garrison's office during an interrogation with Russo under hypnosis, the NBC program said, adding that these facts were not disclosed in earlier interviews of Russo conducted by the district attorney's office. On this point, NBC relied on Dr. Jay Katz, an associate professor of Clinical Psychology at Yale.

### Public Left Baffled

Katz disclosed during the complicated hour that many subjects under hypnosis have difficulty differentiating between fact and fantasy and that the doctor conducting the hypnotic interview did not press to separate the two.

At any rate, that's how the controversial hour went — one knockdown after another scored by the network and the public left somewhat baffled. To courageously zero in on Garrison, with the Shaw trial pending, is to be admired, but more time, it seems, was needed to make as clear a case as possible on such a sensitive subject.

### Garrison's Response

Extensive film cutting was obvious; a sense of rush permeated the hour, and one couldn't help but feel that meticulous editing and preparation were sacrificed. One reason could be a chance to beat CBS' four-day blockbuster next week on "The Warren Commission Report on the Kennedy Assassination." Either it was this

or something else less obvious that lit a fire under NBC.

Certainly the program opens up many avenues of debate and will undoubtedly have repercussions. One could be from Garrison, himself, who charged in a letter to the FCC that "NBC has gone far beyond the pretense of merely gathering and disseminating news.

in its attack on the State of Louisiana prior to the trial of Clay Shaw."

As of Monday, the FCC said it had not received the letter but that if he demanded equal time to reply, the FCC Fairness Doctrine would apply. NBC's news boss Bill McAndrew said the network was prepared for such a demand.



Frank McGee

Bill McAndrew

- Loach
- Walt
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

*Handwritten notes and signatures:*  
 Bet...  
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*Handwritten notes:*  
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- The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_
- Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily News (New York) 85
- Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Post \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- World Journal Tribune (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- People's World \_\_\_\_\_

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