

# KENNEDY PLOT SOLVED, AIR-TIGHT CASE AIM--DA

## Tells Newsmen Arrests Months Away

District Attorney Jim Garrison said Friday his office solved the Kennedy assassination plot "weeks ago" but is now working to get air-tight cases against the individuals involved. Garrison said, however, arrests "are months away."

Earlier, Garrison said the arrests may be "20 years away."

However, he later explained that he had been tired and had "snapped" at questioning newsmen, not actually being serious about the "20 years" statement.

In a fast-moving chain of events, these were the developments:

—A group of 50 New Orleans citizens, spearheaded by Willard E. Robertson, Joseph M. Rault Jr. and Cecil H. Shilstone met at the Petroleum Club and pledged \$100 each a month at least for three months to finance Garrison's continuing investigation. This would allow him to investigate the plot without accounting publicly for the funds. As Rault put it, the investigation would be "unhindered" and "unbiased."

—The Orleans Parish coroner, Dr. Nicholas Chelms, said the death of David W. Ferris was apparently from natural causes, according to toxicological tests.

—Working press members of the Board of Directors of the New Orleans Press Club condemned what it termed Garrison's recent "irresponsible actions" in excluding representatives of the news departments of The Times-Picayune and New Orleans States-Item from a press conference Monday.

### WORLDWIDE FUROR

Garrison conducted two impromptu press conferences in the lobby of the Shell Oil Co. bldg. The first created a worldwide furor, apparently, when a wire service quoted Garrison

Cont. In Sec. 1, Page 2, Col. 1

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Section 1  
Page 1

Times Picayune  
New Orleans, La.

Date: 2-25-67

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: Assassination of  
President John Fitz-  
gerald Kennedy, Dallas  
Character: Texas, 11-22-63

Classification: 89-

Submitting Office:

Being Investigated N.O., La.

62-107010-41642

ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Through the Looking Glass'

Continued from Page 1

saying he had solved the plot and arrests were imminent.

Garrison excused himself from the initial conference, escorted by Rault. They went to the Petroleum Club on the third floor, where the new group, which calls itself "Truth and Consequences," was waiting. Reporters could not hear his words to the group, but they heard Rault ask them if they wished to remain anonymous. They agreed they did.

Reporters, however, recognized Robertson, Shilstone, Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso,

engineer David deLaureal, real estate executive Harold Cook, attorney Eberhard Deutsch, and New Orleans Aviation Board member John Simakal.

On emerging from the luncheon, Garrison was confronted with the wire service story that he had solved the plot. "Why we did this weeks ago," was Garrison's reply. "We're working out details of evidence which probably will take months.

"We know that we are going to be able to arrest every person involved—at least every person who is still living. I'm

sure that there will be convictions."

## POSES RIDDLE

The district attorney, who said he had had few hours of sleep recently, posed a riddle for newsmen. He said:

"The key to the whole case is through the looking glass. Black is white; white is black."

Garrison added, "I don't want to be cryptic, but that's the way it is."

Garrison turned down the corridor of the club and came face to face with a network television reporter. "Jim, did you say this?" he asked Garrison, holding the wire service copy. "You've got to put the record straight."

"I just want to get some sleep," said Garrison. "I don't care how the world thinks."

Reluctantly, Garrison consented to his second press conference in the lobby of the building. Secretaries arriving back at work from lunch and a thundering horde of newsmen awaited him.

For one brief moment, it looked as if the Garrison group wouldn't get to the lobby, because the elevator appeared to be stuck on the second floor. But it worked itself free.

As Garrison stepped out of the elevator, he was ringed with newsmen, secretaries and businessmen.

## 'BEYOND . . . DOUBT'

Garrison began by saying, "My staff and I solved the case weeks ago. I wouldn't say

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Section 1  
Page 2

Times Picayune  
New Orleans, La.

Date: 2-25-67

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

The Assassination of  
President John Fitz-  
gerald Kennedy, Dallas  
Character: Texas, 11/22/63

Classification: 89-

Submitting Office:

Being Investigated N.O., La.

(2)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

we don't have evidence in the shadow of a doubt, how the key individuals involved and how it was

According to Garrison, there were "several plots." He said there was a change, that's more than I want to say.

Garrison suggested there may be suicides among those usually involved in the plot. Those who knew of it but kept quiet. "The only way they are going to get away from us," he said, "is to kill themselves."

As reporters crowded closer, Garrison was asked what he had to say about the Warren Commission's chief investigator's charge that he was "conducting a performance." Garrison replied, "The chief investigator has conducted a performance that will be remembered in history."

Garrison said his office had jurisdiction over the case.

**"FINANCED BY LOAN"**

The tall district attorney further revealed that he would be glad to accept funds from private sources to continue the investigation. "In fact," said Garrison, "our investigation has been financed by a \$2,500 loan from a bank since about 48 hours after the story was revealed in the newspapers."

A reporter quipped, "Are you expecting a contribution from the Central Intelligence Agency?" This referred to recent disclosures that the CIA has contributed substantially to organizations such as the National Student Association.

"No," laughed Garrison, "but I'm expecting some from the FBI."

Garrison, for the first time, admitted that he had accepted some aid from Life Magazine in developing his case. "But our office initiated the investigation," said Garrison. He added other news media have also helped.

"You have my word of honor and promise," continued Garrison to the newsmen. "I will give you the story when we make arrests. But it may be months away. We want to get jury verdicts and we are confident we will."

"What's Hale Boggs doing in town?" a businessman asked of Garrison. Boggs was a member of the Warren Commission.

"I have no fight with Hale Boggs," said Garrison.

**BRIEF SESSION**

Rault, Robertson and Shilstone, on a day of weird press conferences, held forth in a brief session following the meeting at Cravier and S. Rampart as workmen rushed to complete Rault's new office building in the background.

Rault said he, Robertson and Shilstone "are happy to express confidence in our district attorney and state that we have full confidence in his ability, his integrity and the integrity of his office. We and our business friends want to express our support of him and his office in any way we can."

"In order to assist him to complete his investigation in a proper manner, we have agreed to make private funds available in the investigation."

Rault added, "this group is non-partisan, non-political and non-sectarian. It is open to every member of the community regardless of race or religion."

Robertson interjected that a Negro waiter at the Petroleum Club contributed \$10 to the fund at the luncheon.

According to Rault, the idea began among the three—Rault, Robertson and Shilstone—over breakfast Thursday. They called businessmen to join the group and meet at lunch.

**NO INDICATION**

Rault said the money would be set up in a separate account "in a local bank" and Shilstone said, "It will be spent at the

aided  
Attorney  
Kennedy  
1963

District  
"Carrington"  
"Garrison"  
"Garrison"

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Section 1  
Page 2

Times Picayune  
New Orleans, La.

Date: 2-25-67

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: Assassination of  
President John Fitz-  
gerald Kennedy, Dallas  
Character: Texas, 11-22-63

Classification: 89-

Submitting Office:

Being Investigated N.O., La.

3

**Explaining Money Support for DA's Probe**



THE THREE LEADERS of a new businessmen's group giving financial support to District Attorney Jim Garrison's probe into the Kennedy assassination are shown at an outdoor Friday afternoon press conference. They are (from left) Willard E. Robertson, Cecil M. Shilstone and Joseph M. Rault Jr.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Section 1  
Page 2

Times Picayune  
New Orleans, La.

discretion of the district attorney.

Asked about whether they would keep in contact with Garrison and see how the investigation is going, Rault said, "We'll work this out later."

Shilstone was precise in one reply to a reporter's query, whether the vouchers or expense accounts would be available to the press because public investigators would be used. "None of your business," said Shilstone.

Reporting the chemical analysis of the body of Ferrie, a central figure in Garrison's investigation, Dr. Chetta said, "There is no indication whatsoever of suicide or murder." He added a ruptured artery in the brain was the cause of death.

A chemical analysis of Ferrie's blood, urine and skin was negative for the presence of alcohol, drugs and poison, said Dr. Chetta.

Chetta said he had been contacted by a physician who had treated Ferrie. "This doctor told me he had treated Ferrie for high blood pressure and recently for a gastro-intestinal disturbance," said Dr. Chetta. "The doctor said he found Ferrie un-

duly disturbed and depressed and said Ferrie spoke about suicide.

Date: 2-25-67

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Dallas Character: Texas, 11-22-63

Classification: 89-

Submitting Office:

Being Investigated N.O., La