

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

U.S. District Attorneys Divided About N.O. Probe

But All Want Case to
Be Continued

LOS ANGELES (AP) — New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination produced divided reaction Thursday from members of the National District Attorneys Association.

Several delegates to the group's Los Angeles convention said they were skeptical of the evidence presented by Garrison, and some were privately critical of the manner in which Garrison handled the case.

Others, including Richard E. Gerstein, state's attorney of Dade County, Fla., praised Garrison.

"He contacted me several months ago when he believed he had uncovered a conspiracy and asked my help," said Gerstein.

"I interviewed several persons in the Greater Miami area on his behalf including some American citizens and some persons of Cuban background.

"I know Jim Garrison and I have complete confidence in his integrity and ability. I do not

feel he would embark on such an investigation unless he had good cause," he added.

Joseph Murray, prosecuting attorney of Ashland County, Ohio, said Garrison was trying his case "too much on the outside."

He said, "I hesitate to say Garrison has been a publicity hound since I hope he had evidence before he made such charges."

Murray said Garrison's prime witness, Perry Russo, has changed his story several times. "I hope Garrison has more evidence than that," he said. Robert T. Rennie, assistant district attorney of Gavin County, Okla., said he has been "skeptical."

Robert Russell, district attorney of El Paso County, Colo., criticized the way the New Orleans newspapers leaked the story.

"I think Garrison has handled the situation very well. Once the story leaked in the newspapers it put him in a bad position," he said.

A Los Angeles Times reporter said the public prosecutors all agreed that they want to see Garrison's case continued.

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

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The Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

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Author:

Editor:

Title: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F.
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Character:

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Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

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