

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Decoy, Patsy, Victim

District Attorney Jim Garrison continues to be a voice in the wilderness.

Despite the sensation caused by the arrest of Clay Shaw as a JFK conspirator and the subsequent parade of odd-ball characters across the New Orleans scene, Washington has remained officially cool to Garrison. It is difficult to see how this cynical, snobbish attitude can continue in light of the district attorney's repeated charge that Oswald did not kill President Kennedy.

Garrison is a responsible public official, albeit a controversial one. For the Justice Department and yes, even the White House, to act as if Garrison were some kind of cajun lunatic, mouthing off to get more newspaper space, is just short of disgraceful. At this writing there has been no rush to open a Senate investigation into Garrison's charges of a big CIA-FBI cover-up. Perhaps these words will spur Congress to act:

"No, Lee Harvey Oswald did not, did not even shoot President Kennedy. He did not fire a shot from the Book Depository Building . . . he did not touch a gun on that day. He was a decoy at first. And then he was a patsy and then he was a victim."

Garrison says that he knows who the assassins were, but can't get additional information because the CIA is "keeping its vaults locked." He indicates that a quick look at the super secret agency's files would clear up the whole Dallas tragedy.

Last week Garrison tied Oswald, Clay Shaw and Jack Ruby together in cloak - and - dagger fashion. He said that a post office number found in Oswald and Shaw's private belongings was really the un-

listed telephone number of Jack Ruby, Kennedy's lone avenger, who ran a nightclub in Dallas. A newspaper in that city said the number belonged to a bullfight promoter and hinted that the number was neither mysterious nor a code.

Reading between the lines, one may assume that deep, dark secrets about the assassination lie in government files. Whether they will vindicate Garrison remains to be seen. But the feeling persists that he is trying to peel back, layer by layer, the store of information that will lead him to the truth. In doing so, he has challenged the awesome power of the CIA, and to a lesser degree, the FBI, whom he says form a stone wall. If one's imagination is allowed to run riot, there are all sorts of possible visions to conjure up — dupes, plots and counterplots, counter - counter plots ad infinitum. Hopefully, Garrison is wrong in one of his earlier estimates. He said it may be 30 years before the whole story of the assassination is in.

Garrison is a personal friend of Senator Russell Long and apparently is counting on him to promote a Congressional investigation into the Executive Branch "cover-up." The Senator has been extremely busy trying to save his Campaign Fund Act. He failed after seven weeks of wrangling and filibustering. Next he takes on the defense of Senator Tom Dodd, the Connecticut Democrat whom the Ethics Committee wants to censure. Long's services will not be available immediately. But something should be done to clear the fetid New Orleans air which Garrison continues to pollute with Martian - like infusions.

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