

EXILE-CON REFUSES TO REPLY

Grand Jury Queries Pain In JFK Death Plot Probe

District Attorney Jim Garrison's staff brought two men before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury today for questioning in connection with the DA's probe of the John F. Kennedy assassination, but one of the men refused to answer the jury's questions.

Miguel Torres, a Cuban exile now serving a sentence for burglary, and H. H. "Andy" Anderson, former manager of the Roosevelt Hotel, were called by the jury.

Torres, who has stated publicly that the DA's staff attempted to bribe him in return for his "cooperation" in the probe, refused to answer the questions of the jury.

THE YOUNG CUBAN, who was brought back to New Orleans from the Angola State Penitentiary under a writ of habeas corpus for questioning, has said that Garrison's investigators offered him his freedom, heroin and a vacation if he would help them.

After appearing before the grand jury briefly, Torres was brought before Criminal District Judge Bernard J. Bagert.

Assistant DA James Alcock told the judge that Torres refused to answer two questions, relying on the Fifth Amendment. (The amendment guarantees citizens against having to incriminate themselves.)

THE QUESTIONS WERE:

Were statements you made on national television on the National Broadcasting Company in June, 1967, concerning the district attorney true?"

Alcock urged that Torres and John "The Baptist" Cancler, a convicted burglar who also made statements on the NBC special, charged the DA with "wrongdoing on national television but refuse to tell the grand jury about it."

Alcock said the grand jury is interested not only in the assassination probe but also in any criminal act in Orleans Parish and if the DA's staff is doing anything improper or illegal the grand jury is the body to do something about it.

HE CITED THE grand jury's "historic tradition" as a body between the government and the citizens whose

purpose is to investigate wrongdoing and to protect the rights of citizens.

Alcock said that if the charges by Torres are true, it would be "a very serious matter."

However, he said Torres and Cancler "just tell television and Walter Sheridan about it. When they have an opportunity to do something about it they take the Fifth Amendment."

AT THIS POINT, Burton Klein, attorney for Torres, told Judge Bagert that he would like to call a witness to the stand. Judge Bagert, seemingly irritated, said "are you ready to go? We'll go all the way, all the way, this minute."

The judge cited the position of the grand jury, which he said was "created to protect the citizenry against oppression."

SPEAKING OF THE current grand jury, he said he knew of the "courage" of the body jointly and individually, and knew "full well" that they would do their duty.

Klein said he was advised last week by a member of the DA's staff that there was a possibility that his client would be granted immunity if he testified before the grand jury. (Immunity can be granted under Louisiana law only in the case of public bribery.)

Offering Torres immunity, Klein said, "therefore, makes him a suspect and as a suspect he has the right to remain silent."

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STATES-ITEM

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HE SAID THAT "we want to tell someone who has the legal right to investigate the charges against the DA. But here we have the grand jury whose very advisor is the accused."

After some discussion, Judge Bagert told both sides to research the question and file memoranda. Torres will appear before the new grand jury when it convenes and, if he refuses to answer the questions, Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara will rule on the issue.

Anderson, former manager of the Roosevelt Hotel, was taken before the grand jury for questioning in connection with the probe.

ANDERSON'S CONNECTION was not explained. However, Anderson was employed by the Hotel Adolph in Dallas prior to the assassination in 1963 and the hotel was involved in the Warren Commission's investigation of the President's death.

Anderson was manager of the Roosevelt during 1966, when Lee Odom of Dallas says he met Clay Shaw and asked Shaw for advice on how to promote a bullfight in New Orleans.

He said the manager of the Roosevelt recommended Shaw to him. Garrison claims Odom's post office box number in Dallas, which was found in Shaw's notebook, is the coded form of the unlisted phone number of Jack Ruby in 1963.

Garrison said the same number was found in Lee Harvey Oswald's notebook. Oswald is the man named as the assassin by the Warren Commission. Ruby shot Oswald two days after the assassination and recently died himself of cancer.

Lee Odom says he didn't know Shaw until 1966, and that he only had the post office box number about three months during that year. Post office officials said the number didn't come into being until 1967.