

The non-coverage of Garrison's un-speech

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Any primitive knows that if you don't mention something it doesn't exist. Don't say the bad spirit's name and he can't bother you. George Orwell knew that the opposite of speak is unspeak. Ignore uncomfortable utterances and they never were.

The Associated Press knows all this too.

United Press International knows.

So do the Los Angeles Times and Herald-Examiner.

That's why, after Jim Garrison gave his electrifying speech be-

to a week later. But most Angelenos didn't know Garrison was in town, much less that he had spoken, until, on the day he left—nine days after the speech—the Times, under heavy pressure, carried a Section II, page 3 story announcing that Garrison was in town working on his case. Tacked to the end of the story was a short, misleading statement from the speech.

The L.A. UPI Bureau, its hand forced by this breach of silence, finally ran a brief story on Garrison's presence in L.A. It was limited to Southern California,

and Garrison was gone.

The big four in L.A. had almost succeeded in keeping Garrison's speech from the rest of the country. But there was one leak. A radio newsman and former UPI man, suspecting that the story would die in L.A., had telephoned a friend in New York's UPI bureau the day after the speech and had given him a full rundown. His friend called back later to report that the story had been killed; it was, he said, "too damn hot."

Thus did Garrison's speech become an un-speech in the best 1984 tradition.

For the Radio and Television News Association of Southern California on November 14, few people were the wiser.

The next morning dawned sunny and serene with not one newspaper in the country carrying the story that Garrison had:

- (1) named Johnson responsible in the assassination cover up,
- (2) declared that the Warren Commission was appointed to conceal the true facts, and
- (3) concluded that a government which puts its survival before the truth should fall.

One newspaper—a weekly—in the entire Los Angeles area had covered the speech.

One news service—a small local serving only the L.A. area—had covered the speech.

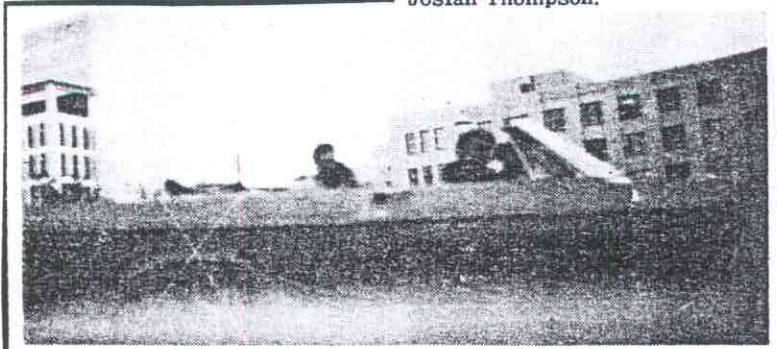
Invitations had been sent by host radio station KHJ to AP, UPI, the Times and the Herald-Examiner. No one showed.

Two days after the speech, a small daily, the Westside Citizen-News, picked up the city news service story and ran it. The next day, the Free Press, after an all-night hassle with space, printed the full speech plus the questions and answers following it. No other newspaper in the country got the story. The blackout was almost complete.

Five L.A. radio and TV stations reported the speech a day



Black arrow points to the storm drain. Picture was taken seconds after the assassination. Photo from "Six Seconds in Dallas" by Josiah Thompson.



Elm Street, Dealey Plaza, as viewed from inside the storm drain where Jim Garrison claims an assassin stood to fire a pistol shot at President Kennedy. The FP photographer who took this picture recently while concealed in the drain (see story on page 3 and other photos this page) point out that the auto in the picture is not in the same position as the presidential car when Kennedy was shot. It is estimated that Kennedy's car was approximately 25 feet further back and to the left of this angle.