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Garrison objects to federal— closing Kennedy murder case

by JIM GARRISON, New Orleans's District Attorney (press release)

The action of the United States District Court in issuing a restraining order preventing us from trying Clay Shaw as scheduled is outrageous and unprecedented interference by the federal government with the legal processes of the State of Louisiana.

First of all, the federal court has no legal justification whatsoever for interrupting the scheduled trial at this time. This is a trial by the State of Louisiana—not by the United States government—and the recitation by the defendant's lawyers of completely fictional grievances does not create federal jurisdiction where none exists.

Secondly, the federal government is a party with special interests in this case. Our investigation has shown that the federal investigation was faked and the Warren Commission inquiry was faked to conceal the fact that President Kennedy was killed in a professionally executed ambush. The evidence is overwhelming—and it was overwhelming on November 22nd, 1963—that the President was shot from at least three different directions. The Warren Commission concealed this and much else from the people of this country.

Obviously, the federal government does not want it known that it conducted a fraudulent inquiry, using altered evidence and false evidence to fool the people of this country. Therefore, it would be a much more objective inquiry in a court of the State of Louisiana, where the case belongs.

Another reason that the federal government has a special interest in this case—and should therefore keep its large nose out of it—is the very deep involvement of agents of the Central Intelligence Agency in the assassination. The concealment of the involvement of the C.I.A. was the major objective of the false federal investigation and the false inquiry by the Warren Commission. Many people in this country still do not know that the Central Intelligence Agency—which is completely uncontrolled by Congress—has been engaged in the assassination business for some years.

Ever since my office discovered that a part of the C.I.A. was responsible for the murder of President Kennedy, we have had nothing but interference by the federal government in this case.

After President Kennedy began removing troops from Vietnam, executed the nuclear test ban

treaty, began reaching an understanding with Russia, began reaching an understanding with Cuba—all in the interests of ending the Cold War—and began to institute controls on the previously uncontrolled C.I.A., he was killed in an ambush by men connected with the Department of Covert Activity. This may be hard to believe—we found it hard to believe at first—but the evidence is unavoidable once you get behind the faked federal investigation. It should be added that the evidence indicates that the top command of the C.I.A. did not know this was going to happen—but this has not kept the rest of the government from concealing the truth.

The federal government has been interfering with any honest inquiry in every conceivable way—from the threatening of witnesses at the outset to the monitoring of telephones to the use of a constant barrage of propaganda through national media in an attempt to discredit the inquiry.

In contradistinction, we have made no critical or derogatory statements concerning Mr. Shaw. From the time he was charged, my office has been fair to him and none of his rights have been violated even inferentially. The members of the press of New Orleans will bear witness to the fact that my office has refused to mention his name publicly. Just where is the "reign of terror" which is supposed to justify this federal intervention?

If the case of the State of Louisiana is as fraudulent as his attorneys pretend, why not let him go to trial and be acquitted? Why is there suddenly such loss of faith in trial by jury?

The unauthorized interference

by the federal government with aspects of this case has been escalating steadily. When we subpoenaed Walter Sheridan of N.B.C. news to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, a federal court ruled he did not have to appear. When we subpoenaed a Life Magazine reporter to the Grand Jury, a federal court ruled he did not have to appear. There was absolutely no law nor precedent supporting these federal court rulings.

In six years we have had no trouble calling witnesses in from other states to appear before the Grand Jury. Now, suddenly, we have trouble getting witnesses into Louisiana to testify.

The reasons given by the federal district judge for restraining us from going to trial as scheduled are plainly merely excuses to support an unauthorized federal intervention in the judicial processes of Louisiana. We have not even had the trial yet. What is the federal government interfering with this case for?

If there can be unauthorized federal intervention to help a defendant where the national government has a special interest, in time there can be federal intervention opposed to the interests of a defendant.

Although the words used by the federal court purport to indicate deep concern for protection of the defendant's rights from persecution by the prosecutor, the fact is that it is well known that my office has never had a case reversed because we used improper methods. Even so, the law of the State of Louisiana has many remedies to protect the defendant. We do not need the help of the federal government in leading us from our wicked ways to the path of righteousness. It is pretty plain that this unauthorized and unprecedented federal maneuver is the beginning of a power play by the federal government to interrupt and obstruct a State prosecution where the federal government has a special interest in the outcome.