

New Orleans Paper and DA at Odds Over Assassination Story

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NEW ORLEANS—The New Orleans States-Item published a news story last week disclosing Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy because it became alarmed at the amount of money Garrison's investigators were spending, Walter G. Cowan, managing editor, said Monday.

The newspaper showed Garrison an advance copy of the story and the district attorney did not object to it being published, Cowan said.

However, Garrison spent most of an hour-long news conference Monday denying that he saw the story in advance, blasting the New Orleans newspaper for asserting that the publication had arbitrarily

hampered his efforts to prove Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone in the assassination.

Garrison said his office had been "within weeks of making arrests," but that it now is months away because of the publicity.

The States-Item's copyrighted story revealing the probe was concerned primarily with \$8,000 which the paper said Garrison had spent in the three-month investigation. The paper had known about the investigation for some time, Cowan said.

"Garrison read the copy (in advance)," Cowan said. "He made no recommendation for us to withhold publication and he refused to con-

firm or deny the story.

Our reporters told him we were going to publish it and he remarked: 'Go ahead.' After it was published he called our news desk and said it was substantially correct."

More than 40 newsmen, including some from Great Britain, Canada and Hungary, jammed Garrison's office for his news conference. However, the district attorney barred reporters from the States-Item and the New Orleans Times-Picayune and told his aides to "throw them out if necessary."

Asked how he thought the States-Item should have handled the story, Garrison said:

"They should have asked if any harm would be done if it were released at the time."

Success Predicted
Garrison said: "There is question in my mind that there will be arrests of individuals in connection with the assassination, and there will

charges and convictions based on the charges.

"I don't make statements I can't prove. We will be convicting people in regard to this terrible crime."

However, there is considerable speculation in New Orleans that Garrison's investigation will uncover anything substantial, or that he will uncover anything that the Warren Commission have not already found concerning the period from April to September, 1963, when Oswald lived in New Orleans. At the time, Oswald had some connection with a group known as the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

Garrison's investigation reportedly revolves, in some respects, around some Cuban exiles. When newsmen waited for several hours in the district attorney's office Monday morning for the news conference, three Cubans were ushered into an office and the door was locked while one of Garrison's aides talked to them.

Garrison said some newspaper stories had named convicted Cuban exiles

...ate, ...on ... Cuban exile, as one of his witnesses and thereby endangered the man's life. He said the man no longer is considered a witness and would be returned to prison and could be killed because other convicts often take revenge on informers.

The man lived near Oswald on Magazine St. in New Orleans. It was learned, however, that the Cuban had been thoroughly investigated previously by other government agencies.

Garrison said he thought the Warren Commission report was "shaky," because neither it nor the man had the proper machinery to evaluate the hundreds of details that