

JFK PROBE

KEY FIGURE

FOUND DEAD

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 22 (AP)—David W. Ferris, a central figure in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's current investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, was found dead in his bed today. He was nude, and a bedsheet was pulled over his head.

Only last Saturday Ferris had told the New Orleans States-Item that the district attorney was investigating him because "supposedly I have been pegged as the getaway pilot in an elaborate plot to kill Kennedy." Ferris called Garrison's probe "a big joke."

Police said it was not immediately determined whether Ferris' death was murder, suicide or resulted from natural causes. They said a quantity of pills was found near the body.

Detectives questioned a youth who reportedly found the body. He appeared

to be about 23 with blond hair, combed back, full sideburns. A policeman said the youth was a friend of Ferris and one of his workers.

It was learned that this district attorney's office had two men maintaining surveillance of Ferris' apartment last November.

Ferris was arrested shortly after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of Kennedy and questioned. He was released after the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas.

PROFESSIONAL PILOT vs. Ferris operated a flying service here and was a private investigator.

He said Saturday he and his friends drove to Texas the day of the assassination.

"We went to Houston, Galveston and then back to Alexandria, La.," Ferris was quoted as saying.

When he returned to New Orleans, he said, he was questioned at length by the district attorney's office.

Ferris said he was called

of the district attorney's office last November and asked about his activities the week Kennedy was shot.

Garrison began his investigation into the assassination last October. He said Saturday he expects to prove a conspiracy was hatched here and that it led to the assassination in Dallas. Arrests will be made and convictions obtained, Garrison said.

Ferrie said in an interview Saturday that while he was in Texas in 1963, 13 law officers, including Garrison, entered his home and carted off books, photographs and personal belongings.

"They took a substantial amount of my property," he said.

BOOKED AS FUGITIVE

Ferrie said he went to the district attorney's office and was booked as a fugitive from Texas. He said he asked to be interviewed by the FBI. After that interview the FBI questioned him. He was released.

Garrison said his investigation has been seriously impeded by disclosure of the investigation last Friday. As a result, he said, arrests would be months away.

reached in m... comment on Ferrie's death.

Pending further investigation, the official police report listed Ferrie's death as unclassified.

When he was brought in for questioning last November, Ferrie said he asked to see a copy of his interview with the FBI. He said he did not see a copy and was released.

In his questioning last November, Ferrie said, Chief Investigator Louis Ivon told him that the district attorney's office had "positively uncovered a plot in New Orleans to assassinate Kennedy."

Ferrie said the FBI first became interested in him after a man identified as Ed Voble

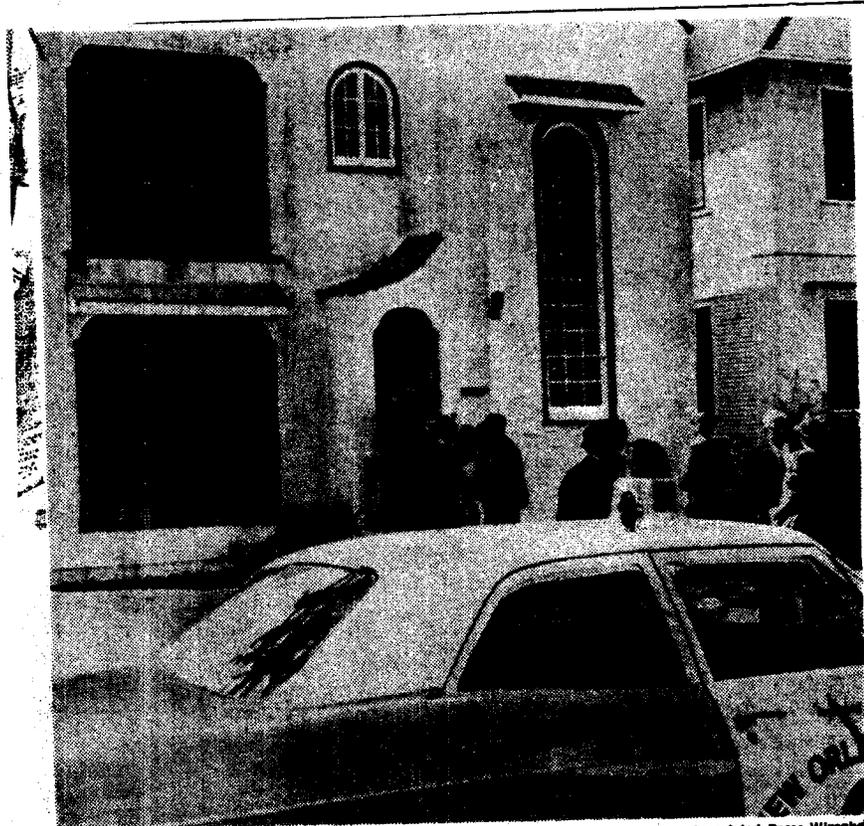
of New Orleans reported he saw with Oswald in a Civil Air Patrol unit commanded by Ferrie.

Actually, Ferrie said, Voble was in the Moisant Squadron and "I was in the Lakefront Squadron." Ferrie said he never knew Oswald, identified by the Warren Commission as the man who shot Kennedy.

Ferrie said he doubted the existence of a conspiracy.

My assessment of Oswald is that he would be incapable of conspiring because he would be incapable of any interpersonal relationship, especially anything as delicate as a conspiracy to kill," Ferrie said.

Ferrie is listed in the city directory as a psychologist.



NEW ORLEANS APARTMENT WHERE DAVID FERRIE WAS FOUND DEAD
Police and press gathered at residence of JFK assassination figure

PHOTOGRAPH BY AP/WIDEWORLD



—Associated Press Wirephoto
DAVID W. FERRIE WAS DEAD IN BED
He was questioned last November on JFK death