

KENNEDY DEATH PLOT 'SOLVED,' N.O. DA SAYS

Arrest of Culprits May Require 30 Years

District Attorney Jim Garrison said today he has "positively solved the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and will arrest every individual involved—in the course of time."

He said, however, that "it may be 30 years before we finish. We will make arrests, but they are not imminent." What he said was largely repetition of previous statements

which he has made about the case.

GARRISON TALKED WITH NEWSMEN as he emerged from a luncheon at the Petroleum Club. His remarks at the luncheon were not made public.

Asked if he had definitely solved the assassination plot, Garrison said, "We solved it weeks ago."

He said, "We're working out details of evidence, which probably will take months."

"WE KNOW THAT WE'RE GOING to be able to arrest every person involved—at least every person who is still living. I'm sure that there will be convictions."

Garrison said the case is "very complicated" and posed a riddle for newsmen. He said:

"The key to the whole case is through the looking glass. Black is white; white is black."

He added: "I don't want to be cryptic, but that's the way it is."

GARRISON SAID HE KNOWS THE people of the world are "champing at the bit" to get details of his investigation. He said he would give the world all the answers.

"You have my word of honor on that," he added.

Thus far, Garrison has not disclosed any specific details of his case, which runs counter to the official Warren Commission report that found no credible evidence of any conspiracy in the assassination of the President in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

Garrison claims there were others involved besides Lee Harvey Oswald. The Warren Report says Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy.

THE DA CONTENDS THE PLOT was hatched in New Orleans.

Garrison said the death of William David Ferrie would not slow up his investigation. He repeated his belief that Ferrie, who was found dead Wednesday, committed suicide.

"The only way people involved can avoid arrest is by committing suicide," he said.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN front of his new building at Rampart and Gravier, Joseph M. Rault Jr., head of a committee called "Truth and Consequences Inc.," a group of businessmen formed to raise money for Garrison's probe, said that about "50 of some of the most prominent members of our community" attended an organizational meeting today and pledged their assistance.

Rault said the businessmen agreed to supplement Garrison's available funds so that he might "develop the facts and the truth, whatever they may be."

Earlier, the group said it was giving Garrison a "blank check" to continue his probe.

"It would amount to a blank check that would pay the cost of the investigation for months and even years," one of the sponsors said. "We are prepared to back Jim Garrison all the way . . . five years if necessary."

When the States-Item revealed the probe's existence last week, it cited city financial records showing that some \$3,000 had been spent by the DA's office, mostly on trips.

GARRISON, ANGRY at the paper's disclosure, said he would continue the probe with borrowed funds or contributions so the paper would be unable to check on his spending.

Two businessmen, both personal friends of Garrison, were named as leaders in the "conspiracy investigation fund" move. They are Rault, president of a petroleum firm, and Willard E. Robertson, an automobile distributor.

Garrison, who contends that

President Kennedy's death resulted from a plot hatched in New Orleans, has promised there will be arrests and convictions within a few months.

RAULT TODAY confirmed the existence of the fund to finance the continued probe, but declined to give any dollar amount.

Asked whether the fund could match the \$8,000 reported spent earlier, Rault said:

"Yes. If he needs \$8,000 for the next three months, he'll get it, and the three months after that. There is no time limit to this.

"We'll provide whatever he needs—no questions asked."

Rault said Garrison would not be asked to give details of the nature of any specific investigative move. He said, however, that "this is not an open-end thing. We'll evaluate what is happening as we go along."

Rault declined to identify the other businessmen who have made pledges, but said, "They cross political lines. This is a community action."

MEANWHILE, U.S. Rep. Hale Boggs of New Orleans, a member of the Warren Commission, said here last night he felt Garrison "is acting in the best interests of

his country" in making the investigation.

Boggs, speaking at Loyola University, said, "I would say that if the district attorney turns up evidence in the case and helps pursue the truth, he had done his country a good service."

However, Boggs said he felt the Warren Report would stand. It holds that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed the President and no conspiracy was involved. *EN*

Tests Support Ferrie Died

Orleans Parish Coroner Dr. Nicholas J. Chetta announced today that results of toxicological tests indicate that David William Ferrie died of natural causes.

Dr. Chetta said, however, that some tests are still being conducted by his office and that the official classification of Ferrie's death will not be forthcoming until Tuesday.

Ferrie, a central figure in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, was found dead in his uptown apartment shortly before noon Wednesday.

The coroner said that blood, urine and skin tests were negative. Specifically, the coroner said, no evidence of cyanide, heavy metals, alcohol, barbiturates, organic compounds such as lye and other caustic agents was uncovered by the tests. Dr. Chetta said there is no evidence to show that Ferrie ingested any chemical substance which might have been fatal.

Lt. Cornelius Drumm of the homicide squad said the investigation of Ferrie's death as far as his department is concerned will be completed by Tuesday.

He said that his office has questioned 10 people, including the youth who discovered the body. Drumm refused to comment on how the youth gained entrance to Ferrie's apartment.

DR. CHETTA said that no member of the family had contacted him about Ferrie's body but he said that an attorney who says he represents the family has contacted him. Arrangements will be made, he said, when the attorney presents evidence to him that

he represents Ferrie's family. He declined to give the name of the attorney.

Dr. Chetta said that a physician who treated Ferrie as recently as last week called and volunteered the information that Ferrie was suffering from high blood pressure and a stomach condition.

FERRIE, CALLED "one of the most important individuals in history" by Garrison in connection with his probe, died of a brain hemorrhage, according to Orleans Parish Coroner Dr. Nicholas Chetta.

He said the autopsy showed

death was caused by an aneurysm of a cerebral artery which caused blood to spill into the brain. Chetta ruled out murder as a possible cause of death.

He said the death would remain unclassified until the toxicological report is complete.

Ferrie lived in an upstairs apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy.

DR. RONALD A. WELSH, who performed the autopsy and who is a professor of pathology at Louisiana State

Natural Death

University School of Medicine, said the "anatomical findings are very clear cut."

He added that Ferrie had a history of high blood pressure ranging from a "moderate to moderately severe degree" and that he had been suffering with "hypertensive cardio-vascular disease."

Dr. Chetta said, "There is no evidence of any violence. There is no evidence of murder."

YESTERDAY, GARRISON said his office will make no further statements on the

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JFK probe in the near future.

"Just in case I have not made myself clear," he said, "let me say under no circumstances will I turn over any evidence we have gathered to any other agency, and this most specifically applies to agencies of the federal government which have with-

held—and continue to withhold—material which should have been turned over to law enforcement agencies having proper legal jurisdiction."

He added that the "federal government has as much jurisdiction over a murder conspiracy in New Orleans as the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.)"

FERRIE'S DEATH apparently scared other persons whose names have figured in the probe.

David Lewis, a bus station baggage clerk who claims he had knowledge of a possible conspiracy to kill Kennedy, went to Garrison's office yesterday, again expressing fear for his life.

Miguel Torres, a Cuban exile who lived a block from Oswald on Magazine st. in 1963, was transferred from a jail cell to the Parish Prison hospital. Reportedly, there was a telephone call threatening his life.

Torres was returned to New Orleans from the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola last month for questioning by Garrison's investigators.