

The Kennedy Assassination---

Evaluating Garrison's Probe

BY HENRY J. TAYLOR

NEW ORLEANS—District Attorney Jim Garrison, widely buffeted by the press as a buffoon who has no case, is no buffoon to this writer. And the case he laid out to me contains several impressive features—provided you have studied the Warren Commission Report.

That's the first rub. The report's 26 volumes of hearings include 3,154 exhibits, the testimony of 552 witnesses, and transcriptions, reports or affidavits covering 26,550—yes, 26,550—interviews by FBI, Secret

various pieces of evidence began coming in here in New Orleans."

Some of these pieces came from a miserable collection of hoodlums whom Garrison calls "terrible witnesses I am confronted with." But other pieces that appear to contradict the commission's judgment stand on their own merits. And several of them put the fat in the fire.

All available evidence caused the commission to conclude that Oswald did not know Jack Ruby, who killed

him, and arrested New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw contends that he knew neither Oswald nor Ruby.

Garrison turned to Volume XVI, Page 58, of the commission's report. Oswald kept a diary. It is filled with cryptic figures and notations, including references to guns and microdots, the method of microscopic photographic reproduction. Page 58 shows a note Oswald made: "P.O. Box 19106," the published report of which brought me back here to New Orleans. For Clay Shaw's notebook, seized when his home was searched on the day (March 1) Garrison arrested Shaw, contains the identical note.

Garrison demonstrated for me the simple code that translates "P.O. Box 19106" into Whitehall 1-5601. Garrison found that Ruby had an unpublished telephone number in Dallas in 1963. And that number was Whitehall 1-5601.

This development would connect Oswald with both Shaw and Ruby.

Moreover, by the same simple code, Oswald consistently employs 4900 and 1300 as routine masking numbers. Garrison pointed out to me that Oswald lived here on Magazine Street's 4900 block; Shaw lives on Dauphine Street's 1300 block. Shaw's defense attorneys scoff at the code. But Garrison demonstrated it practically at random from Oswald's diary.

The man Garrison now wants most to find is a Latin, likewise revealed, whom Garrison has tracked back to the Bay of Pigs debacle.

In fact, Garrison traces his whole case back to the Bay of Pigs. "You have to start there or you get no place in the New Orleans evidence,"

he said.

Although I must oversimplify it herein, this will be his contention to the court:

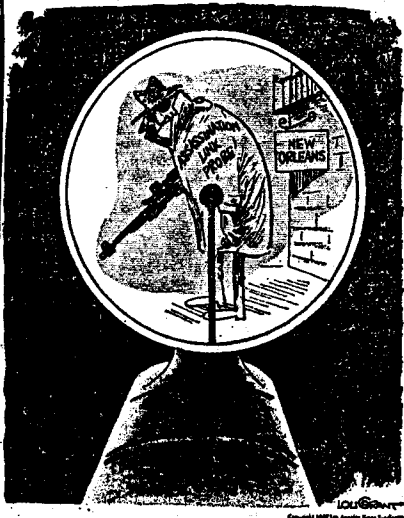
That Cuban anti-Castro refugees, bitterly disillusioned by the Bay of Pigs debacle, including some employed in it by our Central Intelligence Agency, took out their anger on President Kennedy—especially after his emotionally stirring promise to the freedom fighters in Miami "to return their flag to you in a free Cuba" proved not to be the U.S. plan at all.

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That Oswald was produced as a "billboard character" who flaunted his pro-Communist fervor and thus increased the possibility that the wrath of America might precipitate real action for our freedom of Cuba.

That the conspirators were playing a double game: Retribution against President Kennedy and crystallization of the hatred of Castro.

Garrison can well be wrong, but certain parts of his New Orleans evidence will require a great deal of explaining sooner or later.



Zeroing In On Something?

Cartoon by Grant

Service and other investigative agencies. The report has 17,815 pages, totals 10.4 million words and weighs 65 pounds. But it's impossible to evaluate Garrison's points unless you've done this homework.

To comprehend his claims at all you have to rethink the whole case.

Consider the commission as serving chiefly as a jury. As a jury it reached a decision on the evidence obtained by the investigative agencies. The depth and scope of the work these agencies did is astounding, although little appreciated. But the conclusions are those of the commission, subject to the same arguments you might apply if you disagreed with a jury's finding.

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In the commission's judgment Lee Harvey Oswald, a pro-Communist, killed President Kennedy, acted alone in doing so, and there was no conspiracy. Garrison begins with a totally different approach.

"I was forced to," he told me, "as

Cubans, Not Oswald, Shot JFK --- Garrison

5/22/67 - BOS. G. 10/67

United Press International

NEW ORLEANS — Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison claimed Sunday night that President Kennedy was not killed by Lee Harvey Oswald but by five anti-Castro Cubans angry over the handling of the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion.

Garrison told a television audience that Oswald never "touched a gun" on Nov. 22, 1963.

The district attorney accused the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of being aware that Oswald did not kill Kennedy and of trying to stop Garrison's investigation of the assassination.

Garrison said the CIA was more powerful than the Gestapo was in Nazi Germany.

The CIA could give him the name of every Cuban involved in the assassination in

60 minutes if it wanted to, Garrison declared. But the CIA was not worried about Oswald, but about its own power and possibly the security of the nation, Garrison said. He quoted the CIA as saying, "As for the kid (Oswald) well, that's just one of those things."

Garrison said the Cubans involved were located both behind the wall at Dealey Plaza and on the grassy knoll the day of the assassination in Dallas.

Itek Corporation, a private company near Boston, said last week it had studied films of the assassination and determined the films showed no gunman on the knoll.

In another development in the case, Dean A. Andrews Jr., a former assistant district attorney in neighboring Jefferson Parish (county), was scheduled to go before District Judge Frank Shea today in an effort to get dismissed a perjury indictment against him issued by the Orleans Parish grand jury. The alleged perjury apparently arose from Andrews' refusal to identify Clay L. Shaw as Clay Bertrand, who Andrews says called him shortly after the assassination and asked him to represent Oswald.

Garrison maintains Shaw is Bertrand. Shaw, former director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart, has been indicted on a charge of conspiring with Oswald and others to kill Kennedy.

In Detroit, a lawyer for the late Jack Ruby's family said Sunday that Garrison's investigation was "trumped up."

Alan Adelson said Garrison told him in New Orleans that Oswald, Shaw and Ruby were all employed by the C.I.A.

"I know for a fact that Jack Ruby never met or knew Oswald or Shaw," Adelson said, "and I can prove it in a court of law."

Adelson said he would offer his help to Shaw and his at-

orneys.

"Garrison told me he has an eyewitness who saw Oswald and Ruby together in New Orleans, but if he's anything like the rest of Garrison's witnesses, he's got to be laid off, doped or hypnotized. They just don't exist."

Adelson said he is writing a book about Ruby and his connection with the Kennedy killing. He says it will back the findings of the Warren Commission. *end*

GARRISON SAYS C.I.A. KNOWS THE SLAYERS

NEW ORLEANS, May 22 (AP) — District Attorney Jim Garrison says that Lee Harvey Oswald did not kill President Kennedy and that the Central Intelligence Agency knows who did.

"Purely and simply it's a case of former employes of the C.I.A., a large number of them Cubans, having a venomous reaction from the 1961 Bay of Pigs episode. . . . Certain individuals with a fusion of interests in regaining Cuba assassinated the President," Mr. Garrison says.

In Washington, a spokesman for the Central Intelligence Agency said that the organization would have no comment on Mr. Garrison's remarks, made Sunday night in a 23-minute interview with a newsmen, Bob Jones, on station WWL-TV.

Mr. Garrison said that the agency knew "the name of every man involved and the name of the individuals who pulled the triggers" to kill Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. Garrison said it would take "only 60 minutes for the C.I.A. to give us the name of every last Cuban involved in this and that's how close we have been to the end for some-time, but we are blocked by this glass wall of this totalitarian, powerful agency which is worried about its power."

Kennedy Probe Figure ^{LA} Shooting Not Confirmed ^{3/27}

NASHVILLE (AP) — Metropolitan police said Friday they have found no evidence that a figure in the New Orleans investigation of the Kennedy assassination was wounded here Sunday.

However, officers said they were continuing to investigate the reported shooting of former New Orleans lounge operator Gordon Novel.

Charles Walker, president of radio station WKDA, told police Sunday that Novel was sitting in a WKDA news wagon with the station's news director when the vehicle was riddled by gunfire.

Novel, subpoenaed as a material witness in the New Orleans investigation of the Kennedy assassination, left town immediately after the reported shooting.

66% IN POLL ACCEPT KENNEDY PLOT VIEW

~~Sixty-six~~ ^{67-18 NYT 513} per cent of the American people now believe that the assassination of President Kennedy was not the work of one man but a part of a conspiracy, according to a Louis Harris poll published yesterday in The Washington Post.

For the first time since Mr. Kennedy was slain, Mr. Harris said, a sizable majority of Americans believe that the assassination was part of a plot. In February 44 per cent of those polled felt that it was part of a conspiracy; 35 per cent thought that it was the work of one man, and 21 per cent were not sure. The comparable figures this month were 66 per cent, 19 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively.

On a related question, Mr. Harris reported that seven out of 10 of those polled felt that the Warren report had left "many important unanswered questions."

A major contributor of these feelings of doubt is the assassination investigation by District Attorney Jim Garrison, of New Orleans, Mr. Harris said.

Nearly two of three persons polled are following this investigation, he said, and of these 45 per cent believe it will shed light on the assassination, 46 per cent believe it will not and 9 per cent are not sure.

Persons under 35 years of age and persons from lower-income groups have all along been more prone to doubt the findings of the Warren Commission, Mr. Harris said.

Belief in Warren Report Sags

LAT-57-10
 BY LOUIS HARRIS
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For the first time since the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, a sizable majority of the American people (66%) believes that the shooting was not the work of one man but was part of a broader plot.

Within the past 60 days public confidence in the Warren Commission report has been pared nearly by half. Seven out of every 10 Americans are convinced that there are still many "important unanswered questions."

A major contributor to this swelling doubt is the investigation into the assassination by the New Orleans district attorney, Jim Garrison. Nearly two out of three people say they have been following the events. Among these there is an even division of opinion on the merits of the Garrison inquiry: 45% believe it will shed new light on the assassination, while 46% think not much will come of it.

All in all, one American in four has been converted to a belief in the conspiracy theory alleged by the New Orleans inquiry. One in three of the less well educated and one in five of the better educated have changed their minds.

From the beginning the group most prone to criticize the findings of the Warren Commission and to believe the assassination was part of a broader conspiracy has been the less-well-educated, low-income segment of the population. Although only half of those in this group have followed Garrison's activities, they have been most inclined to believe his allegations. People under 35 are more likely than their elders to suspect that Lee Harvey Oswald was not alone in the killing.

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Since last September the Harris Survey has asked carefully drawn cross sections of the public:

Do you feel the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was the work of one man, or do you feel it was part of a broader plot or conspiracy?

	May, 1967	Feb., 1967	Sept. 1966
Part of a broader plot	66%	44%	46%
Work of one man ..	19	35	34
Not sure	15	21	20

A breakdown of the latest results

by key groups is revealing:

	Plot 66%	One man 19%	Not sure 15%
Nationwide			
By age:			
Under 35	70	15	13
35-49	65	21	14
50 and over	65	18	17
By education:			
Grade school or less	71	13	16

High school	69	15	16
College	57	30	13

With the rise in belief that the assassination was part of a broader conspiracy, conviction that the Warren Commission told the full story has dropped sharply:

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Do you feel that the Warren Commission report on President Kennedy's assassination told the full story or do you feel that there are still many important unanswered questions?

	May, 1967	Feb., 1967	Sept. 1966
Told full story	18%	30%	32%
Still many unanswered questions ..	72	59	54
Not sure	10	11	14

The Garrison investigation in New Orleans has been followed by nearly two out of every three people in the country:

	Total public
Followed	64%
Not followed	36

The 64% were asked:

Do you feel that the New Orleans investigation into the Kennedy assassination will shed real light on the killing, or don't you think much will come out of it?

	Will shed light 45%	Little come of it 46%	Not sure 9%
Total followed it:			
Nationwide			
By education:			
8th grade or less	46	40	14
High school	48	44	8
College	39	54	7

END