

*107-4762*  
Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison charged that Jack Ruby was involved in a New Orleans-based conspiracy in 1963 to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. Garrison's first mention of Ruby came in a document filed in Criminal District Court in New Orleans in answer to motions by attorneys for Clay L. Shaw, New Orleans civic leader indicted for conspiring to assassinate Mr. Kennedy. The district attorney's answer to a defense motion for a bill of particulars alleged that Shaw made a trip to the Capitol House Hotel in Baton Rouge in the fall of 1963 and met with Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald and supplied them with money. *END*

### Garrison Says Ruby Had Role In a Plot to Slay Kennedy

NEW ORLEANS, June 5 (AP)—District Attorney Jim Garrison of Orleans Parish said Monday that Jack Ruby was part of a New Orleans-based conspiracy in 1963 to assassinate President Kennedy.

Mr. Garrison's first mention of Ruby came in a 98-point document filed in Criminal District Court in answer to motions by attorneys for Clay L. Shaw.

Ruby, the Dallas nightclub owner who killed Lee Harvey Oswald two days after the assassination, died of cancer Jan. 3, 1967. The Warren Commission said that Oswald was the lone slayer of the President.

Mr. Shaw, 54-year-old New Orleans businessman, is under indictment charging him with conspiracy to murder Mr. Kennedy. In answer to a defense motion for a bill of particulars, Mr. Garrison alleged that Mr. Shaw made a trip to the Capitol House Hotel in Baton Rouge in the fall of 1963, and met with Ruby and Oswald and supplied them with funds.



# Garrison's Financiers Tighten Pursestrings

## Judge to Scrutinize Private Backing for Assassination Inquiry as Donations Lag

LAT  
6/11/65  
BY NICHOLAS C. CHRISS

Times Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS — A secret fund provided by wealthy New Orleans businessmen to bankroll Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's inquiry into the Kennedy assassination has been considerably less successful than its sponsors have revealed.

The fund, known as Truth and Consequences, has collected about \$9,000, according to one of the sponsors—not \$20,000, as has been announced. And there are indications that some arms have been twisted to keep the money rolling in.

At a recent meeting here, one of Garrison's most powerful supporters told the lagging contributors to "pay up or get out" of the fund.

Leaders of the fund, which was formed in February, have been stalling for the record that the organization was contributing at least \$5,000 a month to Garrison's investigation, or \$100 a month from each of at least 50 businessmen.

### Claims to Need \$3,000

Garrison has stated privately that he needs \$3,000 to \$5,000 a month to finance his investigation, and that the inquiry will take at least six months more.

Controversy, politics and confusion surround the fund. But the veil of secrecy may be lifted Monday.

A criminal court judge has ordered sponsors to produce the fund's mem-

bership rolls and financial records. He also has ordered Garrison to relinquish to the court records of receipts and disbursement of the money.

The judge acted on a motion by attorneys for Clay L. Shaw, retired director of the International Trade Mart here, who was accused by Garrison and later indicted by a grand jury on a charge of conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

### Regard It as Illegal

Shaw's attorneys contend the fund not only illegal but immoral.

It provides a platform for money from anonymous, private sources to conduct a criminal investigation. The fund came into being after New Orleans newspapers disclosed that Garrison had spent \$8,000 in public money in his assassination probe.

There has been no audit of the money since the organization was formed.

To use the money, according to one businessman, Garrison need only telephone and ask for it—and any expenditure is approved on a no-questions-asked basis.

The businessman explained that the fund supporters may keep up with Garrison's expenditures by looking at the canceled checks. But, it was learned, there actually is very little, if any, scrutiny of how the money is spent. The fund has an account at the Bank of New Orleans whose president, Lawrence Merrigan, is a

member of Truth and Consequences.

Thus far, the names of only six members of the fund have been revealed. But the men backing Garrison's investigation are reported to be among the most powerful—politically and financially—in Louisiana.

Many of these men also represent sources of political revenue which helped Democrat John McKeithen to be elected governor of the state.

One of the fund's leaders, Willard E. Robertson, gave Garrison \$2,500 in February to carry on the investigation.

Robertson said Garrison approached him and asked for a personal loan of \$2,500.

He said the district attorney returned several weeks later and asked for another loan.

Robertson, a wholesale distributor of foreign cars, said that he, like the other businessmen, is dissatis-

fied with the Warren Commission Report and has implicit faith in Garrison's investigation.

For Robertson, unlike the others, there is also a personal matter involved.

"I last saw Jack Ken-

neddy two weeks before his death," Robertson said, explaining that the President had invited him to the White House to talk about Louisiana politics.

"I had a great respect and admiration for Jack Kennedy. The country owes it to him to find out what really happened."

Robertson added that the taxpaying public deserves "something better than the snow job the Warren commission gave."

The Warren Commission named Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone assassin and said there was no evidence of a conspiracy to kill Mr. Kennedy.

Besides securing Shaw's indictment, Garrison has

made a series of assertions that there was an assassination conspiracy.

"The overwhelming majority of public opinion is in favor of this fund because millions of Americans like us believe Oswald did not act alone. I'm ready to be judged on the fund," said oil millionaire Joseph M. Rault Jr.

Rault is credited, with Robertson and Cecil M. Shilstone, operator of a testing laboratory, with launching Truth and Consequences.

Another member of the fund is John Mmahat, 35, a savings and loan company president. He said he always has doubted that Oswald fired the fatal shots in Dallas.

"Garrison ought to be given a chance to prove what he has," Mmahat said, adding that the only way he could do this and not tip his hand in the investigation was to use the private funds.

Edmond G. Miranne, another contributor and also a savings and loan pres-

ident, agreed with the others that the investigation could not have continued if the district attorney only had public funds

available.

Garrison's backers are at a loss to explain why he did not ask for more funds from the state. Two months ago, McKeithen gave Garrison \$5,000 from a special fund to help finance the investigation,

but then apparently closed the purse.

"McKeithen is scared to death of Garrison," said two of the fund members.

It was learned that McKeithen recently has had several statewide polls taken to determine Garrison's popularity in light of the publicity which has engulfed his probe.

"Garrison didn't do well at all," said a source in the governor's office. "McKeithen, however, did extraordinarily well."

# Shaw Plea on Garrison Fund Records Rejected

BY NICHOLAS C. CHRISS

Times Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS — A criminal court judge Monday refused to make public the \$9,000 fund which an anonymous group of businessmen have given Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison to bankroll his investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. said a public accounting of the fund—known as Truth and Consequences—might impugn the motives of its contributors. However, he ordered its records preserved until after the trial of Clay L. Shaw, accused by Garrison and later indicted by a grand jury on a charge of conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

The judge said the court would keep the sealed records, so that if the defense alleged after Shaw's trial that there were connections between Truth and Consequences and the grand jurors, there would be means of checking.

F. Irvin Dymond, an attorney for Shaw, said that without the member-

ship list of the group, "we would be forced to rely on the testimony of grand jurors whether they were members of the group, whether they have an interest in it and whether they have relatives in Truth and Consequences.

## 'Public Bribery'

"The actions of Truth and Consequences come close to violating the statutes of public bribery . . . giving money for purposes of influencing public officials," Dymond said.

Shaw's attorney had petitioned for disclosure of the funds as part of a move to obtain a bill of particulars about the indictment.

The day-long hearing also saw these other developments:

—A prediction by Judge Haggerty that Shaw will not go on trial before Sept. 12.

—The growing concern surrounding the possible illegality of a warrant used by the district attorney to search Shaw's French Quarter carriage house last March after Shaw was arrested.

Shaw's attorneys insisted that Garrison's men removed items from the house — such as whips, chains and black gowns—that had no bearing on the investigation. And Louis Ivon, Garrison's chief investigator, admitted under questioning that he was uncertain as to what he was looking for when he searched Shaw's home.

Haggerty said he was perturbed over the mistaken wording of the affidavit and that the references to meetings and places "misled" the judge who issued the search warrant last March. *FND*

# Garrison Offer to Burglars Reported

NEW ORLEANS (UPI)  
—Newsweek magazine re-

ports that two convicted burglars have charged Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison with offering concessions if they would "cooperate" in his case against Clay L. Shaw.

Newsweek said John Cancler accused Garrison's office of attempting to get him to plant evidence in Shaw's apartment in exchange for hav-

ing charges against him dropped.

A second convicted burglar, Miguel Torres, reportedly told both Newsweek and the New York Times that Garrison promised to help get his sentence reduced if he would testify to an assassination conspiracy involving Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie.

Torres, the magazine said Sunday, told of how Garrison tried to "teach" him dates and names of persons supposedly involved in the plot.

The Monday edition of the New York Times reported that Torres, a former heroin addict, said

he was offered his freedom from prison, an ounce of heroin and a three-month vacation to Florida if he would "cooperate" in the investigation.