

Witness in TV Film Cites Cash Offer to

United Press International

NEW YORK—A fourth witness has said he was offered money for helping the investigation of New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison into the Kennedy assassination.

private club here in New Orleans. And he said he was sure that I could get it, and he said anyway at all that he could help he would. People that helped him he took care of," Leemans said.

The interviewer asked Leemans if a sum were mentioned. Leemans replied: "Yes, I told him I needed \$2500. He said he was sure I wouldn't have any trouble getting that money." *END*

Fred Leemans, who once ran a Turkish bath in New Orleans, said Garrison's investigators told him he would be helped to get \$2500 he needed to lease a building for a nightclub if he could remember that Clay L. Shaw used the name Clay Bertrand and was accompanied to the Turkish bath by someone named Lee.

Leemans made the remark in a filmed interview with NBC-TV news as part of "The JFK Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison," which will be shown tonight from 8 to 9 o'clock EDT. (It will be shown in Boston over TV Ch. 4 at 8 o'clock.)

Garrison Sunday wrote a six-page protest to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) charging that "NBC has gone far beyond the pretense of mere gathering and disseminating news in its attack on the state of Louisiana prior to the trial of Clay L. Shaw."

Garrison claims Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald and others conspired to kill Kennedy. Shaw has been indicted.

The three other witnesses who said they were offered concessions to help the investigation were Miguel Torres, John (The Baptist) Cancler and Alvin Beauboef. Torres and Cancler are convicted burglars now in jail. Beauboef said he was offered \$3000 and a job to help bolster the alleged conspiracy.

Leemans in the interview said he received a call from a Robert E. Lee of Garrison's office and talked to Lee later at the district attorney's office.

"He said, did I know Clay Shaw? and I said, well, I knew him. He said, he used to come to your place and I said, well, some of the time, yes," Leemans told the NBC interviewer, continuing:

"And he said, did he use

Aid Garrison Probe of JFK Plot

the name Clay Bertrand, and I told him that I couldn't swear that he used that name because I didn't remember names too good, or dates. And he said it would be very useful to them if I could remember any of that. And I said, well, I don't want to get involved in anything like this. I said I'm trying to get a lease on a building in New Orleans now, if I could raise the money for it.

"And he said, well, I'm sure that if you help us that we can help you, and you can get the place that you want. So then he asked me questions about, couldn't I remember that Clay Shaw used the name of Clay Bertrand when he came to the baths?

"The way he asked that I figured he wanted a yes, so I told him yes. And, he asked me was there any other people Clay Shaw—he kept saying Clay Bertrand—came up with, and I said there's one young fellow, and he said would his name have been Lee? Mr. Lee said that would be very helpful too, so I said yes there's one man that he called Lee."

Leemans told the interviewer that Lee brought Garrison into the room.

"... I told Mr. Garrison right out what my plans were in trying to raise money for this club that would be a

to Aid Garrison in Investigation of Assassination

New Witness Alleges That He Was Offered Money

By ROBERTS E. DALLOS

A man who once operated a Turkish bath in New Orleans says that Attorney Jim Garrison and his representatives offered him money if he could remember that Clay L. Shaw also used the name Clay Bertrand and that Mr. Shaw frequented his establishment with a young man named "Lee."

The man, Fred Leemans says, who now lives in Slidell, La., near New Orleans, says he told the district attorney and his investigators that would need \$2,500 to lease a building in New Orleans to "make a fine night club and a private club."

He says he was told they were sure he "would get it . . . people that helped him [Mr. Garrison] he took care of."

Mr. Leemans made his statements in a filmed interview for a program by the National Broadcasting Company.

On TV Tonight

The one-hour program, entitled "The J.F.K. Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison," is scheduled to be shown on the network at 8 o'clock tonight.

Mr. Garrison contends that the assassination of President Kennedy was the result of a conspiracy. He has declared that Mr. Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman, using the name Clay Bertrand, met with Lee Harvey Oswald and others to plot the murder. The Warren Commission said Oswald killed President Kennedy alone.

In the N.B.C. film Oswald is never referred to by his full name—only as Lee.

Mr. Leemans is the fourth man to say Mr. Garrison or his staff had offered concessions in return for aid in the investigation of the assassination.

Two of them, Miguel Torres and John Cancler, are convicted burglars now in jail.

Last month, another Louisiana man, Alvin Beauboef, charged that an investigator for Mr.

Garrison had offered him \$3,000 and an airlines job if he would "hep substantiate" the alleged conspiracy.

Mr. Garrison could not be reached yesterday to comment on the Leemans statement. N.B.C. said that it had not offered the district attorney a chance to answer on tonight's program.

Mr. Leemans also was unavailable for comment.

Mr. Garrison, angered by the broadcasting company's intervention in his investigation, complained yesterday to the Federal Communications Commission. He said that N.B.C. had the "calculated objective" of the destruction of his case.

In a six-page letter to the chairman of the F.C.C., Rosel H. Hyde, Mr. Garrison charged that the network "has been so aggressive in attacking the State of Louisiana's case [against Mr. Shaw] prior to trial as to have gone far beyond the pretense of merely gathering and disseminating news." He asked that N.B.C., not be allowed "to use the public airwaves to accomplish such mean ends."

In Washington, a spokesman for the F.C.C. said late yesterday that the letter had not yet been received. In any event, the spokesman said, the commission "does not practice censorship" and is prohibited by law from determining the content of television programs.

He said that Mr. Garrison could demand an opportunity to respond to the program under the so-called fairness doctrine. Under this, the commission would determine whether Mr. Garrison should receive time from the network to give his views.

In his interview with N.B.C., Mr. Leemans said that he had received a call from "a man who identified himself as Mr. Robert E. Lee with the district attorney's office in New Orleans."

A spokesman in Mr. Garrison's office confirmed last night that

there was an assistant district attorney with that name.

"He said he would like to talk to me, but not on the phone, and wanted to know when it would be convenient for me to come to the office," Mr. Leemans said, continuing:

"He said, did I know Clay Shaw? And I said, well I knew him. He said, he used to come to your place and I said, well, some of the times, yes.

"And he said did he use the name Clay Bertrand, and I told him that I couldn't swear that he used that name because I didn't remember names too good or dates.

"And he said it would be very helpful to them if I could remember any of that. And I said, well, I don't want to get involved in anything like this. I said I'm trying to get a lease on a building in New Orleans now, if I could raise the money for it."

"He said, well, I'm sure that if you help us, we can help you, and you can get the place you want. So then he asked me questions about, couldn't I remember that Clay Shaw used the name of Clay Bertrand when he came to the baths?"

"Er, the way he asked that I figured he wanted a yes, so I told him yes. Er, he asked me: Was there any other people Clay Shaw — he kept saying Clay Bertrand—came up with? I said there's one young fellow, and he said: Would his name have been Lee? Mr. Lee said that would be very helpful, too. So I said yes, there's one man that he called Lee."

Mr. Leemans then said that he was told to wait while Mr. Lee summoned Mr. Garrison. He continued:

"So he brought Mr. Garrison in and he introduced him to me, and he asked: Could this young fellow, he says, could you remember that he had a goatee, or a little beatnik type of beard?"

"I said yes, I can remember that and then I told Mr. Garrison right out what my plans were in trying to raise money for this club that was a private club here in New Orleans. He said he was sure that I would get it, and he said anyway at all that he could help him would. People that helped him he took care of."

\$2,500 Is Mentioned

The N.B.C. reported asked Mr. Leemans then: if any amount of money was mentioned?

"Yes, I told him I needed

\$2,500," Mr. Leemans answered.

"What did he say about that?" the N.B.C. reporter asked.

"I said he was sure I wouldn't have any trouble getting that money," Mr. Leemans said.

Mr. Leemans said he was told that Mr. Garrison wanted "to get this all down in a statement," which was dictated to a stenographer.

According to Mr. Leemans, he signed the statement, but did not swear to it.

Mr. Leemans said that the

last time he was at the district attorney's office, "Mr. Lee told me, he said, Fred, I'm sure Mr. Garrison is going to do something for you because he always helps people who always help him.

"But he said anything that has to do with money matters, in giving you any money, can not be done in front of anybody else . . . because that wouldn't look good . . . so you're just going to have to just talk to him person to person, cause that way there are no witnesses to it, whatever deal you two make.

"So I went on back to Slidell. . . and I got to thinking about this pretty bad, and it just struck me what they wanted me to do, and the more I thought about it, it wouldn't be right to swear somebody's life away and ruin the rest of their life on false testimony, no matter what was offered."

Mr. Leemans said that Mr. Shaw had come to his baths, on Canal Street in New Orleans, but that to the best of his knowledge "he never came with anyone."

He was asked:

"But specifically, when you told

them that a young man named Lee came up there with Clark Shaw, that was not true?

"No it wasn't," he answered.

"Would you say that all of the questions that you answered were answers that were suggested to you by leading questions?" he was asked.

"Yes, definitely, because otherwise I wouldn't know what information they wanted," he said.

Mr. Leemans also said he was told that his signed statement was now in Mr. Garrison's safe.

NBC Claims to Know Real 'Clay Bertrand'

Broadcast Scrutinizing Garrison Inquiry
Indicates Clay Shaw Isn't the Same Man

NEW YORK (AP)—The National Broadcasting Co. said in a televised program Monday that potential witnesses were threatened and induced by New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's office to strengthen a case against Clay L. Shaw.

Shaw, a retired New Orleans civic leader, is under indictment there on a charge of conspiring to murder President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in Dallas in 1963.

The apparent heart of Garrison's case, as NBC outlined it is a purported party in the fall of 1963 in the New Orleans apartment of the late David W. Ferrie, in which Ferrie

was heard discussing with his roommate and a man named Clem or Clay Bertrand a plan to assassinate Mr. Kennedy.

Supposedly Oswald

The roommate was said to have been Lee Harvey Oswald, and Bertrand was purported to be Shaw.

"Garrison has based his case on a certainty he can prove Clay Shaw is Clay or Clem Bertrand," said NBC commentator Frank McGee.

"Clay or Clem Bertrand does exist. An NBC reporter has seen him. Clem Bertrand is not his real name. It is a pseudonym used by a homosexual in New Orleans. For his own protection we will not disclose the real name of the man known as Clem Bertrand. His real name has been given to the Department of Justice. He is not Clay Shaw."

Falsehood Implied

Summing up after the hour-long program, McGee declared: "We cannot say that the murder of John F. Kennedy did not happen the way Jim Garrison says it did. We cannot say he does not have the evidence to prove it. We can say this: the case he has built against Clay Shaw is based on testimony that did not pass a lie detector test Garrison ordered — and Garrison knew it. One prospective witness admitted he was going to lie.

"Members of Garrison's staff, in trying to strengthen the case against Shaw, have threatened and offered inducements to potential witnesses."

One of Garrison's witnesses was Vernon Bundy, 29, a narcotics addict. NBC said he was in a prison

hospital when he told another inmate he was testifying for Garrison "because this is the only way I can get cut loose."

McGee said NBC also learned that Bundy underwent a lie detector test in advance of his testimony that indicated his story was not true, but that Garrison made use of it anyway to get Shaw held for trial.

NBC said another key witness for Garrison was Perry Raymond Russo, 26, an insurance salesman, who linked Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald.

NBC quoted an interviewer as saying that Russo, under hypnosis, volunteered no information about Shaw and the purported assassination plot until he was subjected to "a series of leading questions."

Search for Truth

Garrison was quoted as saying hypnosis was used "just to make sure he was telling the truth."

Garrison sought in vain to block the network telecast entitled "The J.F.K. Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison."

In New Orleans, Garrison said: "All of the screaming and hollering now being heard is evidence that we have caught a very large fish. It is obvious that there are elements in Washington, D.C., which are desperate because we are in the process of uncovering their hoax.

"It is equally obvious that the National Broadcasting Co. has lent itself to the counterattack in an effort to stop our inquiry before the truth is brought out to the public."