

## TELEVISION REVIEW

## THE J.F.K. CONSPIRACY: THE CASE OF JIM GARRISON

(Mon., 8-9 p.m., NBC-TV)

This purported "puncturing" of District Attorney Jim Garrison's charges of conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy raises some serious questions as to the ethics and propriety of this special. While nobody wants to put brakes in front of any zealous or over-zealous news unit, is it ethical to charge that a case pending before the courts has no basis, no foundation in fact? A point of view is rare indeed in tv, and normally would be commended, but this trial by tv is a dangerous precedent.

Whether the New Orleans D.A.'s charges have any substance is something for a court of law, not NBC, to determine. At the moment, Garrison has charged Clay Shaw with participation in a conspiracy to kill the President. This is a most serious charge, not one which should be determined by tv newsmen, but by a jury.

Yet newsman Frank McGee paraded an array of "witnesses" including Shaw. They alleged they had been bribed, coerced, promised payoffs, if they would go along with the D.A. Many of these allegations have been aired in the public prints and on tv. More to the point, it was an imbalanced presentation, an obvious effort to discredit Garrison. As though to overcome this flaw, they had brief shots of Garrison, usually saying "no comment." The D.A., it would seem, was right and proper in not seeking to try his case on a tv network. No bar association would have condoned such behavior.

Among NBC's "witnesses" were a convicted burglar, a onetime drug addict, and other sundry characters who would scarcely qualify as character witnesses.

Typical was the interview of Alvin Beauboeuf, who said he was offered a bribe to substantiate an alleged conspiracy. Background

of this man wasn't given, but he said that Garrison has pictures of him which he is "holding over my head." What kind of pictures? Isn't the public entitled to know something of his background, considering the seriousness of his charge?

Similarly, a femme said she was offered clothes, etc. to testify, but didn't. She said Garrison threatened to expose her past. What past? Was she a former bank prez or prostitute?

This entire documentary was too one-sided, left too many questions unanswered. But more importantly it seemed to trespass on the courts when it, in effect, "cleared" Shaw, who has yet to face his peers. NBC does not know what evidence — if any — Garrison has in files, so went with what it had. An unfortunate expedition. *Daku.*

# NBC News Twofers Pends Garrison's Equal Time Move

NBC News late yesterday (Tues.) had not yet heard from New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison as re equal time the network has offered following the Monday night hour teleumentary, "The JFK Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison."

The show had clobbered Garrison's case against Clay Shaw and others who were being charged of a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.

Before the program aired, there were widely publicized reports that Garrison had written a six-page letter to FCC chairman Rosel Hyde in which the DA charged that NBC had aggressively attacked the State of Louisiana's case against Clay Shaw and requesting the web not be allowed to use the public airwaves to accomplish such "mean" ends.

Although the FCC reported it did not receive the letter until yesterday (Tues.), it was widely quoted in the press, indicating that Garrison had released it publicly before it arrived in D.C.

A report from Washington late yesterday (Tues.) said that FCC had not heard from Garrison re a request for equal time on NBC.

Indications were, however, that Garrison would ask time to reply. The reply would give the web a twofers on the current hassle over Warren Report findings in the JFK assassination, taking some of the steam out of CBS News' announced four-hour probe of the controversy, slated for consecutive nights next week.

Whether NBC News rushed to judgment on the hour special because CBS News had announced its four-parter is moot. But it's a fact that NBC execs are extremely vague on when they made the decision to do the show.

# NBC Tactics on Garrison L.A.F. 6/21/67 Inquiry Hit

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A witness in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination inquiry said Tuesday that members of a National Broadcasting Co. news team sought his help "to wreck the Garrison investigation."

"Perry Raymond Russo, meeting with newsmen in Garrison's office, said the NBC team alternated promises and threats in repeated efforts to enlist his cooperation.

The team tried to persuade him to appear on Monday night's NBC television special about the Garrison investigation, Russo added.

The network denied Russo's accusations.

In its program, NBC said, "Russo's answers to a series of questions indicate, in the language of the polygraph operator, 'deception - criteria,'" and the network said Garrison knew this.

Leonard Gurvich, a private investigator who said he supervised the test, stated that Russo did not flunk. Gurvich said the polygraph operator was unable to get specific readings because Russo "was highly nervous" during the two test attempts.

Clay L. Shaw, 54, retired director of the International Trade Mart here, is under indictment on charges of conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963. The indictment was based largely on Russo's testimony.

# PLEA FOR INQUIRY ON GARRISON FAILS

Louisiana Attorney General  
Says He Lacks Authority

*NH 5/16*  
BATON ROUGE, June 23 (AP)—Attorney General Jack Gremillion of Louisiana said today that he has no authority to inquire into the conduct of the investigation by District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans into the assassination of President Kennedy.

The Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans has recommended that a special investigating committee be set up to look into the conduct of the investigation.

Mr. Gremillion said in an opinion to the Commission, "There is no authority within the law for such a procedure."

The only time the Attorney General can supersede a District Attorney is when the prosecutor is unwilling to perform his duty, Mr. Gremillion said.

"I have no evidence from Mr. Garrison or otherwise that he does not intend to perform his duties and, therefore, under the circumstances, I have no authority to comply with your wishes," he asserted.

## A Matter for the Courts

Mr. Garrison has accused Clay L. Shaw, a New Orleans businessman, of conspiring with the late Lee Harvey Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie, a pilot, to kill Mr. Kennedy. The Warren Commission, appointed by President Johnson to investigate the assassination, found that Oswald, acting alone, had slain Mr. Kennedy and found no evidence of a conspiracy.

Mr. Gremillion said, "I think

thist matter ought to be tried in the courts, not in the newspapers, press or TV.

"I think Mr. Garrison ought to be allowed to try his case in the courts."

The opinion was sent to E. C. Upton Jr., president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, and Aran M. Kohn, its managing director.

"District Attorney Garrison has not requested assistance from this office, and it is evident from the press releases that he is attempting to perform the duties of his office as he sees those duties," Mr. Gremillion said.

## Aide Declines Comment

By ROBERT E. DALLOS

William Gurvich, the chief investigator in Mr. Garrison's investigation, refused yesterday to discuss any aspects of a meeting he had June 8 with Senator Robert F. Kennedy, brother of the slain President.

The National Broadcasting Company said Thursday night and Newsday reported in an article yesterday that Mr. Gurvich had told the Senator that the Garrison inquiry had "no basis in fact."

"I can't comment. I won't comment, I have no answer to your questions," Mr. Gurvich said in a telephone interview. "I have read the Newsday article. I won't talk about it. I can't clear it up."

Asked in New Orleans yesterday to comment on the Gurvich interview, Mr. Garrison said that the investigator had not been involved in the case for six weeks.

Frank Mankiewicz, the Senator's press secretary, conceded yesterday that Mr. Gurvich, who is a dollar-a-year man on the Garrison staff, visited the New York Democrat in his office in Washington on June 8.

According to the Kennedy

side, the session lasted for slightly less than an hour. It began in the Senator's office and then continued as the two men rode to the airport, where the Senator caught a plane for New York.

## Leaves for Capital

Mr. Mankiewicz also refused to divulge the substance of the talks.

Mr. Gurvich, who operates a private detective agency in New Orleans, had been in New York since Saturday and for some of the time had been staying at the home of a cousin, Carl Gurvich, in Manhattan.

Carl Gurvich said late yesterday afternoon that his cousin had left for Washington.

In its interview with Mr. Gurvich, Newsday quoted the investigator as saying that the Senator was "extremely grateful" that r. Gurvich had gone to see him.

Newsday said Mr. Gurvich had "strenuously denied" a report that, in his talk with Senator Kennedy, he had called the

Garrison investigation a "hoax."

But the article said Mr. Gurvich had refused to deny that he had said there was no substance to the murder conspiracy case against Mr. Shaw.

"There's a difference between a hoax and saying there's nothing to it," he was quoted as saying. *END*

# Investigation of Garrison by Louisiana Is Urged

Special to The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS, June 22—

The Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans called today for an investigation of the operations of District Attorney Jim Garrison.

The commission asked State Attorney General Jack Gremillion to request the deans of law schools in Louisiana and the heads of bar associations and civic groups to select three investigators for the project.

In an eight-page letter to the Attorney General, the crime commission said it had been contended that Mr. Garrison's investigation into the alleged conspiracy to kill President Kennedy "has included a series of attempts, by Garrison and members of his staff, to induce persons to give false testimony and/or to withhold pertinent facts, under promise of reward or threat of recrimination."

## Garrison Critical

As a result, the commission said, "We believe we express the reaction of all objective observers when we state it is now imperative that an official, impartial, fact-finding procedure be established to immediately and exhaustively examine all allegations made against the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office."

Mr. Gremillion was reported by his office to be "somewhere in northern Louisiana," and

could not be reached for comment. Mr. Garrison immediately challenged Aaron M. Kohn, managing director of the crime commission, to place his charges before the Orleans Parish (country) grand jury.

Mr. Garrison said he would ask the jury foreman to call Mr. Kohn, who along with E. C. Upton Jr., crime commission president, signed the letter to Mr. Gremillion.

Mr. Garrison said, "Naturally I feel sorry for Mr. Kohn. The watchdog of the community has been sniffing at so many bad fire hydrants that his nose has finally gone bad on him."

The crime commission is a nonprofit citizen corporation organized under the laws of Louisiana to conduct research and investigation into the administration of law enforcement and criminal justice as they affect the metropolitan New Orleans area. It is financed entirely by voluntary contributions of business, industry and private citizens and has no government authority.

The crime commission's letter cited allegations made by several persons during the National Broadcasting Company's documentary "The J.F.K. Conspiracy; The Case of Jim Garrison" last Monday in which they were "pressured by Garrison's office to give false testimony."

"Implications of the allegations made against Garrison

and his staff now reach far beyond the assassination probe," said the crime commission. "They raise justifiable doubts about handling by that office of the hundreds of cases each year in which persons are charged with crimes against the state."

## Impartiality Urged

"If accusations broadcast throughout the nation on Monday night are true, the people of New Orleans are without basis for confidence that the laws of this state will be applied so as to convict the guilty and exonerate the innocent. On the contrary, there is reason for fear and anyone may be charged and prosecuted based upon contrived false evidence."

"The commission said, "because of the clouds of doubt and suspicions which have been cast upon this entire process, during which statements of Mr. Garrison and others imply political motives to action and counteraction, any fact-finding process must carry with it public reassurance of impartiality to be believable."

"The Louisiana State Constitution authorizes the Attorney General to intervene for the assertion or protection of the rights and interest of the state. We believe the rights and interest of the people of Louisiana now make it imperative that the office of the Attorney General to intervene for this matter."

The commission recommended that the investigators prosecute any persons that their inquiry showed had committed crimes.

Mr. Garrison contends that a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy originated in New Orleans. Clay Shaw, 54-year-old retired businessman, has been bound over for trial after a preliminary hearing, at which Mr. Garrison alleged that Mr. Shaw, the late Lee Harvey Oswald, and the late David W. Ferrie had plotted to shoot Mr. Kennedy. The Warren Commission named Oswald as the lone killer.

Mr. Shaw is free on \$10,000 bond. Mr. Ferrie, a one-time airline pilot, was found dead in his apartment here five days after the Garrison investigation became public knowledge. The coroner ruled that Mr. Ferrie died of natural causes.