

*State Item*  
7-8-67

## NBC Newsman Charged by DA On Bribe Count

A National Broadcasting Co. newsman faced arrest today after being charged with the attempted bribery of a key witness in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation.

A capias warrant was issued yesterday for Walter Sheridan, the apparent leader of a team of NBC reporters who produced a recent hour-long program on the Garrison inquiry.

The TV program sought to show that the DA's case against 54-year-old Clay L. Shaw was built at least partially upon testimony which did not pass a lie detector test.

GARRISON responded yesterday by charging Sheridan with public bribery of Perry Raymond Russo, the 25-year-old Baton Rouge insurance salesman who said he over-

heard Shaw plotting the President's death.

The NBC show said Russo was subjected to and failed a lie detector test. Russo immediately replied that he was found to be too nervous to take a polygraph test on two occasions.

At the same time, Russo gave the DA a sworn statement in which he said Sheridan had offered to "set me up in California" if he would defect from Garrison's case and join the opposition.

A bill of information filed yesterday by Garrison's office said Sheridan tried to bribe Russo on or about June 11 by making him the following offers:

1. Lodging in a residence in California.
2. Payment of the fee of an attorney for extradition proceedings.
3. Protection and immunity from the State of Louisiana and the district attorney's office.
4. Guaranteed employment in California or job security.

A DA's spokesman said the office did not know Sheridan's whereabouts. He was here as late as June 28 during a session of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Garrison has identified Sheridan as a former official of the Justice Department. He has charged that high placed government officials are attempting to halt his investigation.

Shaw, who has been indicted on a charge of conspiring to murder Kennedy at Dallas in November, 1963, is free on \$10,000 bail. Asst. DA James L. Alcock has predicted the trial may begin in September.

In other developments yesterday, NBC announced that Garrison has accepted its offer of 30 minutes air time to respond to the network's critical documentary. Garrison's program is scheduled from 7 to 7:30 p.m. July 15.

# Warren Commission Challenged on Photos

## Author Says Panel Failed to Examine Picture Evidence

By PETER KIHSS

The Warren Commission failed to study pictures—some no longer available—that might have affected its version of President Kennedy's assassination, according to one insistent critic.

Harold Weisberg, a writer in Hyattstown, Md., says the pictures might show Lee Harvey Oswald standing in the doorway of the Texas School Book Depository and not in a sixth-floor window.

He says they also might verify positions of other witnesses, reveal other persons moving in the area and check President Kennedy's reaction to the shots.

The Warren Commission found that Oswald, acting alone, shot the President from the sixth floor of the depository.

### Author's Third Book

Mr. Weisberg makes his charges in the third of his books attacking the Warren report, "Photographic White-wash: Suppressed Kennedy Assassination Pictures," which is being published personally by him this week.

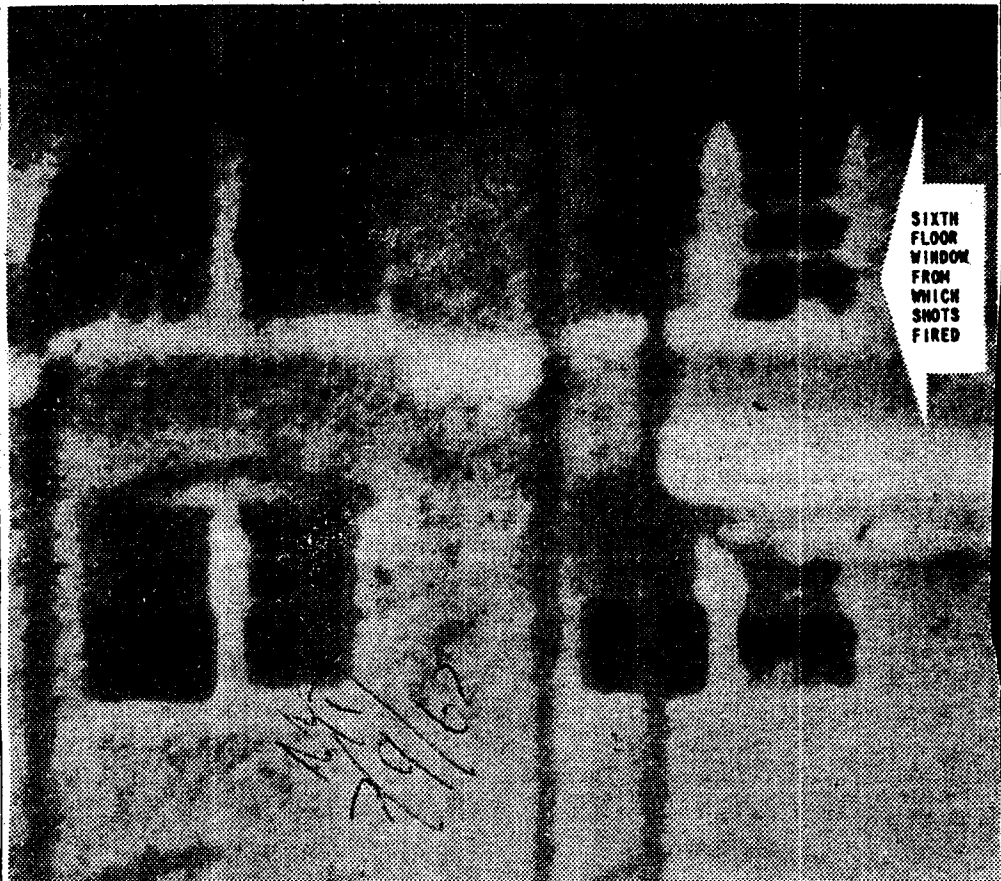
Of its 296 pages, 150 reproduce documents photocopied from the National Archives and dealing mostly with the photographers.

They also include two Federal Bureau of Investigation interviews with Mrs. Carolyn Arnold, a secretary at the book depository in Dallas. One, dated Nov. 26, 1963, said "she thought she caught a fleeting glimpse of Lee Harvey Oswald" in a first-floor hallway "a few minutes before 12:15 P.M."

The second, dated March 18, 1964, had her signed statement that she left the building "at about 12:25 P.M.," and that she "did not see Lee Harvey Oswald at the time President Kennedy was shot."

Mr. Weisberg complains that the commission never called her to check whether she still thought she had seen Oswald before the shooting, which was at 12:30 P.M.

Mr. Weisberg contends that Oswald was "probably" a man shown in a picture of spectators in the depository doorway, not a fellow employe as the commission held. He notes that



Section of a frame of motion picture film has been enlarged to show fifth and sixth floors of Texas School Book Depository. Harold Weisberg contends it "shows no one in the window from which the shots were allegedly fired." But Warren Commission said a witness reported seeing the alleged assassin moving in window before last shot.

Oswald insisted he had been on the first floor during the assassination, according to Dallas police reports of his interrogation.

Mr. Weisberg charges that Government investigators, including the commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, "deliberately avoided" potential photographic evidence.

He offers testimony or investigative reports to contend that pictures of movements in the doorway were taken by Malcolm Couch and James Underwood, television cameramen, and Mrs. Marv Moorman, and Hugh W. Betzner Jr., two amateurs.

He also cites a letter to himself in which Phillip L. Willis, who took one picture of the President being shot, says he has unpublished slides of the crowd around the depository.

The book cites an F.B.I. report that said Miss Wilma Bond had offered color slides of the Presidential motorcade. Another report tells of Mrs. Elsie Dorman "taking pictures" from a fourth floor window of the depository and believing that "shots were coming from the

area of the Records Building" across the street.

Other F.B.I. reports, Mr. Weisberg goes on, say that Thomas P. Alyea, a television cameraman, shot 500 feet of film while running toward the assassination site and then photographed the search for an assassin inside the depository. All but a fifth of the film is now lost, Mr. Weisberg says.

Other photographers whose work should have been examined, Mr. Weisberg says, are Steven L. Alexander and David Weigman.

Mr. Weisberg says he has seen an 8-millimeter motion picture film by Robert J. Hughes that covers the entire depository and the Presidential motorcade in each frame.

J. Edgar Hoover, the F.B.I. director, he says, sent the commission just part of one frame, showing only the sixth and fifth-floor windows, captioned as "taken moments before assassination."

An F.B.I. report on the Hughes film dated Nov. 26, 1963, says "there appears to be a person in the sixth-floor window." But a later F.B.I. re-

port to the commission about a study of the film by the F.B.I. laboratory and Navy Photographic Interpretation Center study concludes that this was "probably a stack of books."

Mr. Weisberg contends this "shows no one in the window from which the shots were allegedly fired at the time they were fired."

However, the Warren Commission reported that Howard L. Brennan, a witness, said he had seen the alleged assassin leave this window "a couple of times" before his last shot.

Mr. Weisberg also discusses a film produced by 18 amateur photographers in Dallas, calling themselves the Dallas Cinema Associates. He says an associate of his, Richard Sprague, studied original footage that had been left out of the edited version.

Mr. Sprague, he writes, believes the original films have "important" footage on the front of the depository and on five men on the nearby grassy knoll—from which some critics

think shots may have been fired—"in apparent flight after the fatal shot."

"The 'puff of smoke' about which witnesses testified, which the commission deprecated, is quite apparent and can be seen floating away," Mr.

Weisberg writes.

Other observers have suggested such a "puff" might have been steam escaping from a pipe in the area or dust thrown up by a ricocheting fragment, not an indication of a shot from the knoll area.

## N.B.C. Airs Garrison Reply Next Week

District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans will make a half-hour appearance on the National Broadcasting Company television network next Saturday to reply to its criticism of his conduct of an investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

After several days of negotiations between Charles Ward, a member of Mr. Garrison's staff, and N.B.C. lawyers, the District Attorney agreed to accept the network's offer of a half-hour of prime time to respond to its criticism of him in "The J.F.K. Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison," an hour-long program broadcast at 8 P.M. on June 19. Mr. Garrison's reply will be carried from 8 to 8:30 P.M. next Saturday.

The program, on which Mr. Garrison will appear alone, will be taped next week at the studios of WDSU-TV, the N.B.C. affiliate in New Orleans. No one associated with the N.B.C. documentary about Mr. Garrison's investigation will be involved in the telecast.

The agreement represents a compromise by both sides in the controversy. After the tele-

cast on June 19, Mr. Garrison wrote to N.B.C. requesting equal time to reply to the criticism against his investigation.

N.B.C. responded on June 29 by offering Mr. Garrison a half-hour of prime time next Saturday at 8 P.M. It suggested that Mr. Garrison appear before a mutually acceptable panel.

### Balked at Panel Idea

On Wednesday, Mr. Garrison's office notified N.B.C. that he would agree to appear on the network only if he received an hour of prime time rather than the 30 minutes offered, and only if no panel took part in the discussion.

He explained his opposition to the panel format to a reporter this way: "I will have to spend half my time educating them because they have not read the Warren Commission report."

During the documentary, N.B.C. produced the former owner of a Turkish bath who said Mr. Garrison's representatives had offered him money if he could remember that Clay L. Shaw, a retired businessman indicted on a charge of con-

spiracy to kill President Kennedy, had frequented his establishment under the name of "Clay Bertrand" while accompanied by a young man named "Lee."

Mr. Garrison has asserted that Mr. Shaw used the name "Clay Bertrand" and met with Lee Harvey Oswald and others to plot the murder of President Kennedy. The Warren Commission said Oswald acted alone in the assassination.

### Two Subpoenaed by Garrison

NEW ORLEANS, July 7 (AP)—William Gurvich, former chief investigator for Mr. Garrison, and John Cancler, a convict, were subpoenaed today to appear next Wednesday before the Orleans Parish grand jury.

Mr. Gurvich, saying that there was no basis for the inquiry, resigned from Mr. Garrison's staff after visiting Senator Robert F. Kennedy in New York City.

Cancler, who is currently serving a burglary sentence, has said he was asked by a representative of Mr. Garrison to break into the home of Mr. Shaw. (N.Y.)