

FERRIE'S BANK SUBPENNAED

RECORDS BY GARRISON

District Attorney Jim Garrison today subpoenaed the bank account records of David W. Ferrie, a former airline pilot who died Feb. 22, a few days after announcing

himself as a suspect in Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe.

Criminal District Court Judge Matthew S. Braniff signed the order, directing a vice-president of the Whitney National Bank to bring Ferrie's checking and savings account records to the DA's office at 10:30 a. m. Wednesday.

Ferrie, who lost his hair from a skin disease and wore a red toupee and pasted-on eyebrows, was found dead in his littered apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy.

CORONER NICHOLAS J. Chetta ruled the death natural. Garrison said it was a suicide brought on by Ferrie's growing fear of the investigation. Three days before he died,

Ferrie telephoned the States-Item to say that Garrison would implicate him in the assassination and that the entire investigation was a hoax. After Ferrie's death, Garrison named him as a conspirator in a plot which the DA said was hatched in New Or-

leans to assassinate the President in Dallas. He called Ferrie "one of history's most important individuals."

AS CO - CONSPIRATORS Garrison has named Lee Harvey Oswald, charged by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin; Jack Ruby, the Dallas nightclub owner who shot Oswald, and Clay L. Shaw, retired New Orleans businessman now awaiting trial for the alleged conspiracy.

The subpoena was filed in the

clerk of court's office by Asst. DA William R. Martin.

Directed to Merlin J. Van Geffen, comptroller and vice-president of the Whitney National Bank, the subpoena asks for "original ledger sheets and signature cards and any and all documents whatsoever pertaining to" Ferrie's savings and checking accounts.

THE ORDER said the documents were to be available for "inspection and copying" and stated they were necessary for the state's case against Shaw.

Garrison has previously ob-

tained records of Ferrie's telephone calls during 1963, except for the month of November, which, he says, are not available.

In other action in the probe today, the bribery charge against television news investigator Walter Sheridan was allotted to Judge Thomas M. Brahmey, who earlier set Sheridan's bond at \$5,000.

SHERIDAN, ONE of the producers of the National Broadcasting Corp.'s recent "White Paper" report, a critical examination of Garrison's office last Friday with public bribery of the DA's witnesses in the Shaw case.

The NBC broadcast alleged that members of Garrison's staff had bribed and threatened some witnesses and had hypnotized another witness, Perry R. Russo.

After the broadcast, however, Russo contended that Sheridan had offered him a house and a job in California, an expensive attorney and protection from Garrison if Russo would change his story.

IT WAS ON the basis of

Russo's statements that Garrison filed charges against Sheridan last week.

According to one source today, Sheridan telephoned New Orleans from Washington, D. C., to say that he will appear this week at the Criminal Courts Building to post his bond and that he will not fight extradition.

Sheridan's attorney in New Orleans, Steven Lemann, who is also attorney for WDSU, the NBC affiliate here, was present in the clerk's office this morning when Sheridan's case was allotted, but he declined to comment on when Sheridan would return to New Orleans.

He was last seen at the courts building on June 28, when the Orleans Parish Grand Jury was in session.

DA Charges Second TV Newscaster

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's office today charged a second television newsman with public bribery and intimidation of state witnesses in connection with the Kennedy assassination probe.

Bills of information were filed with the clerk of Criminal District Court charging WDSU-TV newscaster Richard Townley with attempting to bribe and intimidate one witness and attempted intimidation of a second.

Orleans Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. said attorney Steven Lemann called him shortly after a warrant was issued for Townley and said he and the newsman would appear to post \$7,500 bond this afternoon.

"The bills of information today deal only with the criminal conduct of Richard Townley," an accompanying statement by Asst. DA Richard V. Burnes declared.

FRIDAY, Garrison's office filed bribery charges against National Broadcasting Co. newsman Walter Sheridan.

The charges against both Sheridan and Townley grew out of their activities prior to the airing June 19 of a nationally televised program which was highly critical of the DA's inquiry.

Sheridan was charged with attempting to bribe key state witness Perry R. Russo of Baton Rouge in an effort to influence his testimony.

Townley was charged with attempting to bribe Russo by offering him:

"1. Lodging in a residence in the state of California.

"2. Guarantee by National Broadcasting Co. of employment or job security in the

state of Louisiana or the state of California.

"3. Payment of the fee for the legal services of an attorney for extradition proceedings or in any other proceedings.

"4. Protection and immunity from the state of Louisiana and the office of the District Attorney for the Parish of Orleans.

"5. Serving as an intermediary to influence cross examining trial attorneys not to damage the character and reputation of Perry Raymond Russo."

Russo held a news conference in the DA's office June 20, the day after the critical NBC program appeared. He charged that Sheridan had offered to "set me up in California" if he recanted his testimony against Clay L. Shaw and joined the defense.

The bill of information against Townley said:

"Richard Townley did willfully and unlawfully use violence, force and threats upon one Perry Raymond Russo . . . with intent to influence his conduct in relation to his duty as a witness."

Russo, a 25-year-old insurance salesman, testified at a preliminary hearing he overheard Shaw, the late David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald plot the murder of the late President.

SHAW, A retired managing director of the International Trade Mart, is free on \$10,000 bond awaiting trial. Ferrie died five days after Garrison's investigation became public. Oswald, the man the Warren Commission named as Kennedy's lone slayer, was shot to death by Jack Ruby in the Dallas police station.

The third charge leveled at Townley today by the DA's office involves Marlene Mancuso, a onetime beauty queen and former wife of fugitive witness Gordon Novel.

Garrison charged June 21 that the NBC news team had attempted to interfere with her testimony as a witness in a burglary conspiracy case against Novel.

He released a sworn state-

ment from Miss Mancuso in which she was quoted as saying Townley told her Garrison would be "destroyed."

"HE SAID they were not merely going to discredit the probe," Miss Mancuso's affidavit stated. "He said Garrison would get a jail sentence."

Miss Mancuso said Townley attempted to induce her to appear on the NBC program by telling her a "prior interview" would put her in "good light" when she was finally subpoenaed.

The DA's office charged today that Townley used "violence, force and threats upon one Marlene Mancuso . . . with intent to influence her conduct in relation to her duty as a witness."

Assistant DA Richard V. Burnes said Townley was being charged with public bribery because "from the evidence presented to our office it is clear that he has violated Louisiana public bribery and intimidation of witnesses statutes." *EVD*

Gurvich Due To Testify DA Probe Is 'Hoax'

William Gurvich, former aide in Dist. Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination plot probe, goes before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury today prepared to testify that the investigation is a hoax.

Gurvich, a 42-year-old private detective, said he underwent private lie detector tests yesterday in Chicago to back up his charges that Garrison's probe has no substance.

HE SAID he went to Chicago to have the tests performed by John E. Reid, head of John E. Reid and Associates, whom Gurvich calls the top man in the polygraph field.

The firm announced that Gurvich passed the test.

The tests will "prove I'm telling the truth when I say Garrison's investigation is a hoax," Gurvich said, charging that Garrison can "produce as many witnesses as he wants who will lie under oath."

The investigator defected from Garrison's office June 26 after a lengthy absence from the public eye, charging that the probe should be halted.

Gurvich said he would supply members of the grand jury with copies of the lie detector results.

ALSO TODAY attorneys for Clay L. Shaw, charged by Garrison with conspiracy to murder the President, are expected to take legal action to prevent Garrison from appearing on a nationwide television broadcast Saturday night.

The defense attorneys contend that Garrison's appear-

ance would be a transgression of the guidelines set down by trial Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr.

Shaw, former managing director of the International Trade Mart, has been charged by Garrison with conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald, David Ferrie and Jack Ruby to murder the President in Dallas Nov. 22.

Oswald was the man the Warren Commission labeled as the lone assassin; Ruby, a Dallas nightclub operator, shot Oswald two days after the assassination; Ferrie was a one-time airline pilot. All three men are dead.

YESTERDAY Shaw's attorneys, F. Irvin Dymond and

William Wegmann, said they had arranged a 3 p. m. meeting with Judge Haggerty for the purpose of attempting to block Garrison's television appearance.

However, Judge Haggerty, vacationing in Biloxi, did not show up and by 5:30 Wegmann and Dymond left the Criminal Courts Building. Asst. Dist. Attys. Richard V. Burnes and James L. Alcock, who had been asked to attend the meeting, also gave up and went home.

The defense attorneys said they would try again today to get an injunction from Haggerty, who, they said, is expected back in his courtroom today.

Garrison's planned television appearance Saturday came as a result of an offer by the National Broadcasting Co. to give the district attorney "equal time" after an NBC show June 19 blasted Garrison's investigation.

THE NETWORK offered Garrison a half-hour "live" network appearance to be broadcast from WDSU-TV, the NBC affiliate in New Orleans.

Garrison yesterday charged WDSU reporter Richard Townley with public bribery and intimidation of two of the state's witnesses as a result of the NBC program.

Townley, who has worked full-time on the probe investigation for several months, showed up at the Clerk of Court's office yesterday to post a \$7,500 bond.

Townley's arrest warrant was the second issued in the space of a week by Garrison's office in the probe.

Last Friday, Walter Sheridan, news investigator for NBC and a former Justice De-

partment investigator, was ordered arrested on similar charges.

Sheridan, one of the producers of the NBC show, was last seen by New Orleans newsmen on June 28, during the last meeting of the grand jury.

SHERIDAN, reportedly in Washington, is expected to arrive in New Orleans some time this week to post his \$5,000 bond.

Townley was charged in three bills of information yesterday with attempting to bribe and intimidate Perry Raymond Russo, so far the DA's star witness in the Shaw case, and with intimidating another state witness, Marlene Mancuso.

Miss Mancuso, a one-time beauty queen, is the former wife of Gordon Novel, a fugitive from Louisiana, charged by Garrison with conspiracy to commit burglary. He is also believed wanted by the district attorney for questioning in the assassination probe.

On June 21, Garrison released a sworn statement from Miss Mancuso in which she was quoted as saying Townley told her Garrison would be destroyed by NBC

and that her reputation would not be damaged if she would cooperate.

The day before, Russo held a press conference in Alcock's office and charged that he had been bribed and intimidated by both Townley and Sheridan.

He said he had been offered a house and a job in California, as well as a number of other benefits, if he would recant his testimony against Shaw and join the defense in destroying Garrison's case.

TOWNLEY yesterday called the charges against him "completely false" and "absurd." In a statement to newsmen after he posted his bond, Townley said:

"Mr. Garrison's accusations against me, like those against my colleague from NBC, Walter Sheridan, are completely false. I am honored to find myself in the distinguished company of a man like Mr. Sheridan, who has established a national reputation for in-

tegrity as an investigator for the McClellan Rackets Committee, the Justice Department and now NBC news.

"This would be a minor—even a joking—matter if only the freedom of myself or Mr. Sheridan were involved. The stakes, however, are much higher than that.

"The charges against Mr. Sheridan last week and the charges against me here today are obviously part of the campaign to intimidate reporters everywhere who dare to question the methods of Mr. Garrison, his assistants and his investigators.

"The use of this high office for such low purposes makes a mockery of the justice he is supposed to uphold. Our society has survived other attempts by politicians to silence criticism in the news media.

"UNFORTUNATELY, there is a lengthy tradition of that kind in Louisiana politics. I am confident that those who

bear the heavy burden of reporting the truth—even if that truth hurts—will not be intimidated by this obvious attempt to silence criticisms.

"I am equally confident that these absurd charges will be proven groundless in any fair, impartial trial."

One of the star "informants" on NBC's show last month, John "The Baptist" Cancler, is also scheduled to appear before the grand jury today.

Cancler, a convicted burglar awaiting a hearing on a motion for a new trial, told NBC reporters in a Parish Prison interview that two of Garrison's investigators had asked him to break into the French Quarter home of Clay Shaw and "put something there."

Asst. Dist. Atty. Burnes said that both Cancler and Gurchich had been subpoenaed before the jury—Gurchich for the second time—to give them the opportunity to "put up or shut up."