

'Plot or Politics': Inside On JFK's Death Probe

By JOHN M'MILLAN

The bullets that killed President John F. Kennedy that November day in 1963 stimulated a chain of events to which the last link has not yet been added.

The forging of one of those links is going on in New Orleans now. Whether this part of the chain will withstand the strain of strenuous examination or whether it will prove to be the work of poor metallurgy remains to be seen.

The ore was mined in Louisiana and the craftsmanship involved may be put to trial next month.

TWO NEW ORLEANS States-Item reporters, Rosemary James and Jack Wardlaw, have combined their talents and efforts to present in a book a factual, newspaper-like account of the mining and the miner, Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

"Plot or Politics? The Garrison Case & Its Cast" is the story of the person and places involved in Louisiana vs. Shaw. Shaw is retired New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw, charged by Garrison with conspiring to murder President Kennedy.

Both reporters know the case well. They tell the tale many know and reveal sidelights known only to those closest to the case.

YET AS THEY SAY in the foreword: "We have no theories to peddle. We do not sit in judgment of the Warren Commission Report or attempt to prove it right or wrong, nor do we set out to establish whether Garrison's investigation is valid."

What do they do, you ask? They tell, about events, about people, about places and about theories. Often their account, particularly in characterizations, is sparkling. The writing is slick, smooth, straightforward.

Only occasionally is a passage drab. The main problem of the book is a lack of good editing.

None of this hurts the book's substance. It is just something for reviewers to point out and writers to correct in the next edition.

THE BEST THING about

the book is the way it has of getting to the point. Here the talent and training of good reporters shine. The book is

all meat. The excess fat included in many books by assassination buffs turned "writers" is held to a minimum.

The 167-page book contains nine chapters, six of them about the main characters in Garrison's investigation — the DA himself, Shaw, David William Ferrie, Dean A. Andrews, Perry Russo and Gordon Novel. There is a thorough appendix listing the persons involved in the DA's probe. Many of the names are known to only the principals and a few insiders.

The "Politics" part of the book weaved carefully through the "Plot" gives the reader, almost as an added attraction, an insight into recent New Orleans and Louisiana political history.

But the main character is the search for a conspiracy. Soon the world will know whether Garrison "has anything." When the trial comes there will be no better program than "Plot or Politics."

The book was produced by the Pelican Publishing House.

Bar Owner Testifies At Hearing on Crime

6-21-67 *States Item*

The Orleans Parish Grand Jury heard testimony from a Bourbon st. nightclub owner and the New Orleans police superintendent today as it resumed its probe into accusations that organized crime is flourishing here.

Frank Caracci, who runs the 500 Club, went into the jury room about 10:30 a. m. He was followed by Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso. None of the testimony was made public, as grand jury proceedings are secret.

First on the stand as the afternoon session got under way was Pershing Gervais, a former aide to District Attorney Jim Garrison. Also under subpoena for this afternoon was Aaron Kohn, managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission.

ORAN SANDERS, grand jury foreman, whisked past newsmen and re-entered the jury room at the afternoon session. He asked him if the jury should take action on Kohn's suggestion that Garrison and Criminal District Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara be recused from the probe.

"No comment today, man!" was Sanders' reply.

Before going into the jury room this morning, Caracci told the States-Item he does not know anything about organized crime.

"If that's what this is all about, they're really off base," he said.

Kohn assisted Life Magazine in gathering information on alleged racketeering influences in Louisiana.

GARRISON initiated the probe that was saying he would resign if the charges proved true and that Kohn should do likewise if they are not.

Kohn and other officers of the MCC appeared before the jury last week.

Also subpoenaed were Lt. Clarence Giarrusso, commander of the narcotics squad, and Lt. Fredrick Soule, vice squad chief.

Outside the jury room, Supt. Giarrusso was asked if he thought there was any organized crime in New Orleans. He said:



PERSHING GERVAIS



FRANK CARACCI

"ANY COMMUNITY has a potential threat of organized crime, but whether it is flourishing here is another matter."

He had no comment on the Life charges.

Gervais did, however. He was mentioned unfavorably in the magazine article.

He called Life a "new comic book," and said its allegations regarding him were "totally untrue."

Gervais said he has no information about organized crime, and if there were any here, he added, "I think I would know about it. I know my way around this city."

HE TERMED the MCC a "lunatic fringe" and added:

"We have pretty good government in New Orleans, but not a Utopia. That's why we have elected officials.

"If Mr. Kohn had his way, we'd have appointed officials. Mr. Kohn would watch them, but we'd have a small problem. Who'd watch Mr. Kohn?"

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Dallas Police 'Elements' Tied to JFK Death by DA

By CARL PELLECK

(Special to the States-Item)

NEW YORK—New Orleans

District Attorney Jim Garrison today charged that "elements of the Dallas police force were deeply involved" in the assassination of President Kennedy—which he said was ordered and paid for by "a handful of oil-rich, psychotic millionaires."

Describing the number of Dallas police as a small group and refusing to say how many "Texas style" millionaires were involved, Garrison, nevertheless, identified them all as extreme conservatives.

He also said "some members of the White Russian community" in Dallas played a part in the plot.

GARRISON MADE his latest charges during and after a radio interview taped today for a New York City program to be heard Tuesday evening.

The district attorney reiterated that he was ready to bring New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw to trial immediately on a charge of

conspiring in Kennedy's death.

"John F. Kennedy was assassinated by armed ultra-militant, para-military ele-

ments who were patriotic in psychotic sense," Garrison said.

He said they decided to kill

the President because they felt he was "selling out to the Communists."

HE SAID THERE were "considerably more than seven men" involved in the actual assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. He said they were radio-equipped and took virtually no risk of being caught.

"The connecting link at every level of operation from the oil rich sponsors of the assassination down to the

Dallas police department, down through Jack Ruby and including anti-Castro adventurers at the operating level were Minute Men, Nazi oriented.

"It was essentially a Nazi operation."

Garrison said he could now reveal the latest developments in his controversial assassination investigation because his investigators were finished in Dallas and now safely in New Orleans.

HE SAID HE would have

jeopardized their lives if he had mentioned the involvement of the Dallas police while the investigators were still in Dallas. He said his Dallas investigation had ended some 10 days ago and had taken several months.

Garrison promised to reveal during the first week of the Shaw trial his version of what happened in Dealey Plaza in Dallas on the day of the assassination.

He charged that Lee Harvey Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin of Kennedy, was merely implicated "to drag a red herring in front of the people really involved."

Central Intelligence Agency

GARRISON SAID Oswald was at the time a Central Intelligence Agency operator playing his part in the assassination thinking he was fulfilling another government's assignment. He called the CIA a "Fascist appendage to our country."

Garrison was careful to explain that the assassination did not involve most of the Dallas police department or conservative organizations. He said the few Dallas police involved along with others happened to be members of ultra-right wing groups. JWA

U.S. Asks Court To Drop Partin Indictment

BATON ROUGE (AP)—The Justice Department asked U.S. District Court today to dismiss a 26-count embezzlement and forgery indictment against Edward Grady Partin, business agent for Teamsters Union Local No. 5 in Baton Rouge.

Partin turned state's evidence in the jury tampering trial of former Teamsters Boss Jimmy Hoffa, who is now in prison. Partin served as the government's star witness in the case.

U.S. ATTY. Louis LaCour of New Orleans filed the motion, saying "evidentiary problems" such as the continued absence of many of the union's books and records, and the death of an important government witness had made it impossible for the government to prosecute the case.

Partin was indicted in 1962 on 13 counts of embezzling union funds and 13 counts of making false entries on union books to convert funds to his own use.

No previous attempt had been made to prosecute the indictment against Partin.

Lacour's motion also said that the "pronounced bias and prejudice of several government witnesses against the defendant . . . would severely detract from their credibility at trial."

Lacour said it would be impossible to prove the charges against the local Teamsters boss.

"The government further represents that even if a successful prosecution could be maintained, the interests of justice would warrant a dismissal of this charge," the motion concluded.

THE STATEMENT was not explained.

Partin was accused in the indictment of embezzling \$1,657 in union funds as well as making false entries on the union books to convert additional money to his use.

Partin has been a central figure in the Baton Rouge labor field.

Early this summer, owners shut down industrial construction along the Mississippi River, putting 15,000 men out of work and bringing on a special session of the Legislature.

Partin at the time was busy organizing sand and gravel pit operators and workers on city-parish construction jobs.

The labor leader, however, denied he was the cause of the labor strife.

SINCE THEN, the Legislature, at the request of Gov. John McKeithen created a special labor-management commission on inquiry to investigate racketeering in the labor-management field in this area.

The commission has scheduled its first hearing Oct. 23 and reportedly will subpoena a number of witnesses. *WMA*