

5/11-73
KENNEDY CASE

Garrison Working on Probe Here

BY JERRY COHEN

Times Staff Writer

New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison spent Wednesday, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination, working in Los Angeles on a phase of his controversial investigation into the Presidential slaying.

What he was investigating, however, was Garrison's secret.

Garrison has been registered under an assumed name, "Claude Culpeper," at the Century Plaza since he made a speech there Nov. 14 to a group of broadcasters.

A spokesman in his New Orleans office said he remained here after the talk to the Radio and Television News Assn. of Southern California "to do some work on his assassination probe."

Garrison himself, however, declined comment.

Voices Through a Door

He responded to a knock on his hotel room door Wednesday morning by saying precisely that: "No comment."

"But I haven't asked you anything yet," replied a reporter.

"No comment," the 6-foot-6 prosecutor repeated behind the unopened door.

"Can't you even say what you're doing here?"

"No comment."

Garrison's investigation is partially bankrolled by a group of New Orleans businessmen and private contributors.

Thus far it has led to the indictment of Clay Shaw, a New Orleans civic leader, and a perjury conviction of a lawyer once questioned, then dismissed as being of no consequence, by Warren Commission

However, as criticism of his investigation mounted after Shaw's arrest, Garrison became less and less accessible to newsmen and more and more critical of press coverage.

He repeated the criticism in his Nov. 14 speech at the Century Plaza, and made his harshest remarks to date about the role of the federal government and President Johnson in post-assassination developments.

"Now our government is lying," Garrison said, adding: "What the United States government did in the Kennedy assassination, and it was a well-planned assassination involving a number of individuals as you will learn, I assure you; what the government did was to practice two essential actions to conceal the truth of the assassination. One was concealment of evidence and the other was destruction of evidence."

And Garrison asked: "Who has the arrogance and brass to prevent the people in this country from seeing the evidence? Who indeed?"

"The one man who has profited most from the assassination — your friendly President, Lyndon Johnson."

investigators.

Shaw, claims the Louisiana prosecutor, was part of a conspiracy, including Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby, that led to the Kennedy assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

When his investigation first became public knowledge 10 months ago, Garrison unloosed a number of headline-making statements

Return Stone To Oswald's Texas Grave

BARTLESVILLE, Okla. (AP)

— The headstone is to be returned to Lee Harvey Oswald's grave in Fort Worth after police found it here.

The 120-pound stone's disappearance was discovered Wednesday, four years to the day after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. The Warren Commission said Oswald was the assassin.

Capt. Joe Glenn, Bartlesville detective, said the stone was turned over to police in a downtown park through a third party "who we thought might be able to help us, and he did."

"We're not disclosing who the intermediary was," Glenn said.

He did indicate, however, that two Bartlesville teen-age youths took the stone as a practical joke. He said the intermediary did not reveal their identity.

"There would probably be insufficient evidence to convict them of any crime, anyway," Glenn said.

The plain stone is inscribed "Lee Harvey Oswald Oct. 18, 1939-Nov. 24, 1963." and

A New Book Shoots Big Holes in Warren Report

BY MAX LERNER

Four years after John F. Kennedy's assassination, add the name of a Haverford professor of philosophy, Josiah Thompson, to the list of those who have shaken the public confidence in the Warren Commission Report and place him right on top of the list. He has worked hard on a "micro-study" of any bit of evidence bearing on the killing, including the famous Zapruder film and any other film, document and all testimony he could get his hands on, as if he were a one-man new Warren Commission, reinvestigating the greatest mystery of our time, digging up everything as "a test in archaeology." He has written a book—"Six Seconds in Dallas"—with a Saturday Evening Post preview of it.

His conclusion is that it is still a mystery; that the President's limousine was caught in a carefully prepared trap; that there were four bullets fired by three gunmen stationed at different points; that



Bookworms
Wallmeyer in Long Beach Independent

one of them, stationed in the Texas Book Depository (who may not have been Lee Harvey Oswald), fired the first and third shots, both hitting the President; that a second gunman, firing from a rooftop of a Houston St. building, hit Texas Gov. John Connally; that a third man, hidden behind a stockade fence in front of the limousine, fired the last shot, which rocked the President's head back and finished him.

If this "reconstruction" of the

killing is valid (Thompson himself leaves to the future to decide whether it is "history, semihistory or fiction"), then the three gunmen all made their getaway safely and are still at large among us. He refuses to speculate on who they may have been, or what their motives were, and contents himself with a scrupulous sifting of the evidence of the killing itself.

What about Oswald? Thompson joins the growing list of students who believe that Oswald did not fire a shot, although he agrees there is

no proof of this, and that he may be wrong. His theory is that there was one, or possibly two, other men in that sixth-floor window of the book depository who used the gun that was fired and left behind, and that they got away through an unguarded back door.

This seems to me the weakest part of his reconstruction, and the most conjectural. Although the case against Oswald as sole assassin has loopholes in it, the case for leaving him out of it entirely has just as many. I suspect we shall have to leave him in it until we get other and better evidence, if ever, not only because (as Dr. David Abrahamson contends in a learned paper published by the New York Academy of Medicine) there was a fitness for the crime in his life history and personality structure, but because we have to torture too much of what is known in order to support the necessary alternative theory of Oswald as dupe and patsy as well as innocent.

The strongest part of the Thompson book lies in his disproof of the theory that a single bullet passed through both Connally and Mr. Kennedy and his massing of evidence for the theory of the four bullets and the three directions from which they came. From now on anyone wanting to support the single-killer theory, with its accompanying position on the fascinating double-duty bullet, will have to

disprove Thompson's reading of the evidence, which on those issues is more careful and more powerful than the Warren Report.

Like others, I have gone through several phases of belief since the Kennedy killing. I reacted strongly at first against any conspiracy theories, whether of the far-out left or the far-out right, and thought the Warren Report explained enough to be tolerably acceptable.

The first book that shook me up was Edward Epstein's "Inquest," which showed how sloppily and hastily the commission had reached its conclusions. When Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison threw his New Orleans bombshell, I went down to see what he had and for a moment was fascinated by it; but while I have not closed my mind to his theory, it strikes me as wilder than justified by any base of evidence he can produce. It was not until Thompson's book that I became clear in my mind about some kind of collaborative shooting and about the trap that had been set for the President.

★

The American university, which has had to take some rough treatment recently, can point to some decidedly nonivory-tower books on the Warren Report. Epstein did his book as a graduate student thesis at Cornell; Richard Popkin, author of "The Second Oswald," is a philosophy professor at UCLA; Thompson, a Ph.D. recently out of Yale, is teaching philosophy at Haverford and has a new book on Kierkegaard. Evidently a few sturdy minds survive even the kind of graduate school fare we now dish out to them, or perhaps they even thrive on it.

Maybe Thompson will leave Kierkegaard alone for awhile, and turn to the big problem remaining in the assassination: who were the three men, where did they come from, what plot did they form, by what strange drives were they moved?

Ward Admits Animosity Held For Chandler

The chief assistant to District Attorney Jim Garrison today testified that he does hold personal animosity toward Life Magazine reporter David L. Chandler, who is seeking to avoid testifying before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Assistant DA Charles Ray Ward said his animosity would not affect Chandler, however, because he (Ward) would not participate in the grand jury hearing.

THE JURY WANTS to question Chandler in connection with its probe of claims that organized crime is flourishing in New Orleans. It was a series of articles in Life that raised the matter, and Chandler gathered some of the information in them.

Chandler has sought to avoid testifying on grounds that the DA's office has it in for him and seeks to trap him into perjuring himself. Garrison has denied this.

Testimony in Chandler's court fight to avoid testifying before the jury resumed this morning before a three-judge federal panel consisting of Circuit Judge Robert S. Ainsworth and District Judges Edward J. Boyle and James A. Comiskey.

Garrison was scheduled to be the first witness but was not on hand at the opening of court. At Judge Ainsworth's suggestion, Ward took the stand first. Garrison arrived later and subsequently took the stand.

WARD SAID HE held per-

sonal animosity toward Chandler because he "lied and impugned my honesty." He said Chandler telephoned him, using obscene language, and said "When Mr. Sessions gets through with you, there'll be nothing left." Cicero Sessions is Chandler's attorney.

Ward said that in order to be impartial, he had a case involving a shoplifting charge against Chandler's wife transferred to Municipal Court, which is not in the DA's jurisdiction. He said he did this because the amount involved was less than \$2.50.

When Garrison took the stand, he was cross-examined by Sessions on the question of an alleged \$52,000 bribe offered to him by racketeer figure Carlos Marcello.

CHANDLER HAS testified that he could have told the grand jury "from personal knowledge" that such a

bribe offer was made.

Garrison today again denied there was such a bribe offer. "I've never had any bribe offer and I never told anyone I did," he said.

"It's no secret that a bribe offer was reported to have been made," he added. He said the source of the report was Pershing Gervais, one of his former aides. He said Gervais later told him the report was not true.

Two States-Item reporters testified after Garrison left the stand. Rosemary James identified a news story concerning the bribe offer and an affidavit attesting to its accuracy.

REPORTER JOHN McMillan testified regarding an incident in which he asked Ward to join him, Chandler, Sessions and others for a drink.

Ward testified previously he had declined the offer because he felt it improper to be in company with someone involved in "criminal litigation."



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"I've always thought the Warren Report skeptics are crazy—but now I'm beginning to think the believers are even crazier!"