

L.A. Times Opinion 12/31/63
**ASSASSINS: What
Makes Big Jim Run?**

Big Jim Garrison, New Orleans district attorney, is either grossly wrong about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy—or he's frighteningly right. Frightening because if he's right a movement to cover up the truth exists that is as ugly and shocking as the assassination itself and even more harmful to the nation.

A day after the slaying of the President on Nov. 22, 1963, Garrison had his staff investigate to see if Lee Harvey Oswald had accomplices in New Orleans, for it was known that he had been there the previous summer. The investigation turned up a number of persons allegedly connected with Oswald, indicated that Oswald was connected with a paramilitary right-wing group, and that, on Sept. 16, 1963, he and other men discussed an ambush of the President. One of the other men, according to Garrison, was known as Clem Bertrand, another was David Ferrie. Ferrie has since died. Bertrand, identified by Garrison as a New Orleans businessman, named Clay Shaw, was indicted in connection with the asserted conspiracy and his trial is scheduled to begin Feb. 14.

Last week, in Los Angeles, a man named Edgar Eugene Bradley, 49, of North Hollywood, surrendered to Sheriff Peter Pitchess on a fugitive complaint after Garrison sought him also in connection with the murder of the President.

Bradley is a representative of Dr. Carl McIntire, a fundamentalist radio evangelist. His encounter with the local lawmen was cordial. Sheriff Pitchess thanked him for conveniently coming down to give himself up; Bradley thanked the sheriff for "the trust and confidence you have shown. Believe me, I don't have a thing to hide."

After he was arraigned, freed on his own recognizance and granted a 30-day continuance, during which Louisiana is expected to start extradition proceedings, Bradley said:

"I know I'm not guilty of any crime. God knows I'm not guilty. That's the important thing."

His attorney, former FBI agent George Jensen, said they would "fight extradition tooth and nail." Eventually, Gov. Reagan may decide.

Three Sought as Witnesses

Also last week Garrison subpoenaed

two men living in California and one living in Nebraska as material witnesses in his inquiry into the assassination. They are Loran Hall, Kernville; Lawrence J. Howard Jr. of El Monte and Thomas Beckham of Omaha.

The three face no charges in New Orleans. Garrison said they had not been questioned by the Warren Commission appointed by President Johnson, which contended that Oswald acted alone in the killing of President Kennedy—a finding many investigators besides Garrison regard as erroneous.

Garrison says he can get no help from the Dallas Police Dept., from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, nor from officials in high office, up to and including President Johnson. The cover up, he says, is so intense that efforts are repeatedly made by various individuals and organizations and even news media to discredit his investigation and to smear him personally.

Big 'Why' of the Assassination?

Among Garrison's assertions:

- President Kennedy was assassinated because a "number of extreme individuals" considered him a Communist or one who had sold out to the Communists. Sponsors of the plot are very rich men.

- At least 10 men actually conducted the slaying. Some merely drove autos. Shots were fired at the President from at least four points.

- Bullets from a number of different directions struck him. Autopsy photographs were never seen by members of the Warren Commission "because they knew in advance they would see wounds caused by gunshots from a number of directions . . . You aren't supposed to see that because you are dutiful Americans and believe the fairy tale of the lone assassin . . ." He suspects that some day an attempt might be made to bring out autopsy photos doctored to support the lone-assassin contention.

- The notes from the autopsy on the President's body were burned.

- Cuban exiles, vengeful because they thought Mr. Kennedy had let them down in not overthrowing Fidel Castro, were deeply involved in the plot.

- Oswald, connected with the Central Intelligence Agency, the government's spy apparatus, was manipulated into the role of the "patsy" in the assassination.

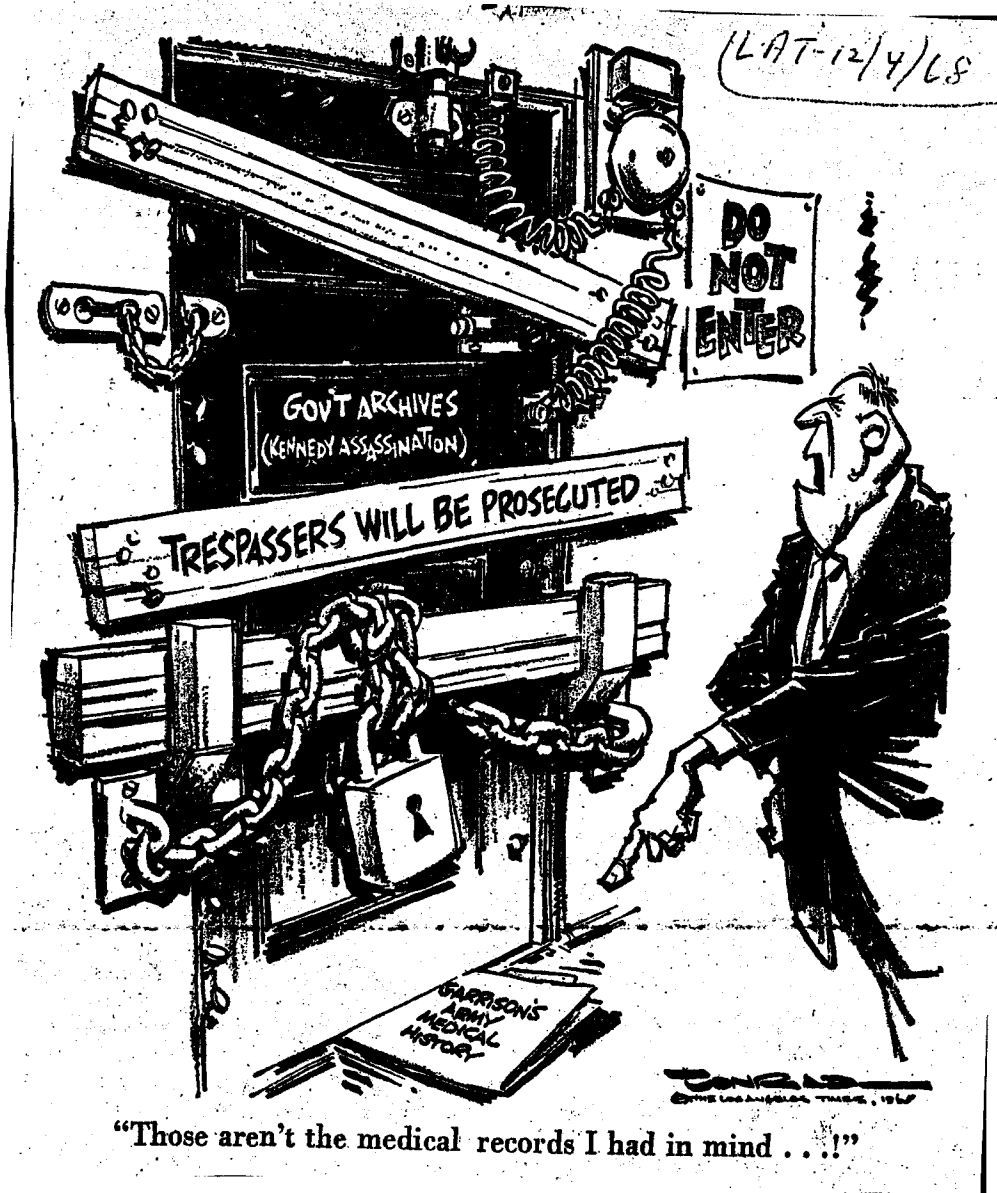
- Jack Ruby, "very much involved, very much associated . . . with key individuals in the case," simply "executed" Oswald when he had the chance, so that Oswald could not talk. Ruby later became remorseful, and at an appearance before the Warren Commission in Dallas begged that the sheriff, an assistant district attorney and his own counsel be removed "and he would talk." Refused this, he then "begged the chief justice to take him to Washington and "he would be able to tell them things that he could not tell them there." This also was refused.

- Sen. Robert F. Kennedy may be so "severely shocked" that he "has just turned away from" the matter and so far has been "unable to look at it."

- Some of the many later deaths of witnesses and others associated with the assassination were natural, others were murders "to keep alive the Great Fairy Tale."

In view of the stone wall of indifference and hostility that he says he runs into, and giving full credence to his assertion that he is not trying to advance himself politically, anyone who wonders why Garrison keeps so determinedly on his course is told this:

He is appalled at the way "my government is lying to the people of this country." He fears the nation is going totalitarian—becoming "the Fourth Reich."



(LAT-12/4/68)

GOVT ARCHIVES
(KENNEDY ASSASSINATION)

TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED

DO NOT ENTER

GARRISON'S
ARMY
MEDICAL
HISTORY

Tom Wolfe
© THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, 1967

"Those aren't the medical records I had in mind . . .!"

Edgar Eugene Bradley - 63
A North Hollywood man accused by New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of conspiring in the Kennedy assassination said he had been given a lie test, at his request, and that the results would be announced at a press conference today. Edgar Eugene Bradley, 49, said he is confident the test administered by Beverly Hills polygraph expert Chris Gugas will clear him of any complicity. Gugas confirmed Bradley "was a very cooperative witness and his charts quite readable," indicating his subject passed the lie test.

1-3-68

Vows Beckham Will Return If Conditions Met

An attorney for Thomas Edward Beckham, 27, entertainer-evangelist sought by New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison as a material witness in his probe of the assassination of President Kennedy, said yesterday in Council Bluffs, Iowa, his client would return to New Orleans if certain conditions are met.

John E. Rice, Bellevue, Neb., attorney, said Beckham would have to be guaranteed immunity from prosecution on a trip from Nebraska to New Orleans and back.

Beckham, a western music entertainer who says he is a bishop of the Universal Life Church, moved here from Omaha in an effort to avoid a subpoena issued Friday for his return to New Orleans to face a grand jury probe Feb. 1-2. Iowa is not a party to an interstate pact providing for the free exchange of material witnesses in major criminal cases.

In Omaha, Douglas County Atty. Donald Knowles said he will ask the district court to order Beckham to appear as a material witness. Knowles said he had received a written request to return Beckham to New Orleans.

Bradley OK on Lie Test, Lawyer Says

Edgar Eugene Bradley, girding to fight extradition to New Orleans where he is charged with plotting the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, took a privately arranged lie-detector test Thursday and passed it, according to his attorney.

But the attorney, George J. Jensen, said he would not "at this time" permit his client to take a similar test arranged by any law enforcement agency. Nor would he make public a list of the questions and answers used, saying: "It may be a part of our defense."

At a Beverly Hilton press conference, Jensen said the test was given earlier in the day by Chris Gugas, criminologist and polygraph expert, and indicated Bradley, 49, was not involved in any way with the Kennedy assassination.

Meanwhile, Bradley's employer, evangelist Carl D. McIntire, arrived at Los Angeles International Airport from his Collingswood, N.J., home, to appear at rallies to raise funds for Bradley's defense.

1-5-68
J.G. Jensen

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Shaw Given Permission ^{1/3-68} To Leave N.O.

Clay L. Shaw, charged with conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy, was granted judicial permission today to leave New Orleans from Sunday through Friday, Jan. 12, for a visit to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Attorneys for Shaw, in filing the motion asking permission to leave the jurisdiction, pointed out that Shaw is presently free on \$10,000 bail and that Shaw's attorneys would have his address and telephone number on the Gulf Coast if he should be required to return to the jurisdiction prior to Friday.

Shaw promised to return on three hours' notice from his attorneys.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. granted the motion. There was no opposition from Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock, representing the state.

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