

(Photographically reproduced from The WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS, Dec. 30, 1967)

Garrison Says Government Is 'Protecting Assassins'

'LBJ Knows Oswald Didn't Pull the Trigger'

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 27 (UPI)

— President Johnson "knows very well that Lee Oswald did not pull the trigger," Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison said yesterday, and charged Mr. Johnson and J. Edgar Hoover have kept the truth about the assassination of President Kennedy from the Kennedy family.

Mr. Garrison, asserting that at least 15 persons including right wing extremists were involved in a conspiracy to murder Mr. Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, said Mr. Johnson and the Federal Government are "protecting the assassins every day."

In a day of fast moving developments in his year-old assassination probe, Mr. Garrison said:

- Oswald was working as a Federal agent in November, 1963 and advised the FBI of a plot to kill President Kennedy in Dallas.

- At least 15 persons were involved in the conspiracy, including right wing extremists.

- Communists were not involved in the plot.

- He fears the Warren Commission's secret documents may be changed before they are released to the public.

- He finds it unusual that three Democratic governors have interfered with his investigation by refusing to extradite witnesses to Louisiana.

- He did not know whether Gov. Ronald Reagan of California, a Republican, would extradite Edgar Eugene Bradley, the second man Mr. Garrison has charged with conspiracy in the assassination.

Mr. Garrison, blasting away at Mr. Johnson for not releasing the Warren Commission secret documents, said the Federal Government "is protecting the assassins every day."

"It must certainly be the first time in the history of the human race that the man who profited most from a murder was able, as a consequence, to be in a position to announce that the vital evidence could not be seen until after all living persons were dead," Mr. Garrison said.

"It is my feeling that President Johnson was not involved in the assassination, but wouldn't it be nice to know that he was not involved," Mr. Garrison said. "We'll never know that he was not involved until he stops concealing the evidence."

Asked why the Kennedy family has not backed his investigation, Mr. Garrison said the family was not aware of a Federal "coverup" because it was getting its information from Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hoover, the FBI chief.

JANUARY 4, 1968

CHRISTIAN BEACON

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