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Interview with Jim Garrison
By Murphy Martin
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Martin..Mr. Garrison, do you have any hard new evidence regarding the assassination of John Kennedy? It's been almost a year now since you first told me that you had solved the assassination.

Garrison..I want to clarify that because I always felt that that was a strong statement to make. It really wasn't too accurate. I was merely replying to someone as I got in the elevator. I don't know whether ~~it~~ was you (Over Martin: Yes, it was.). Somebody said, you mean you've solved it and I said, "We solved it a week ago," meaning that we were in the main area.

Martin..Right.

Garrison..But I wasn't trying to speak as if I were Sherlock Holmes and we had the entire thing because we have never pretended to be great investigators. So I was really answering the question. Now, do we have hard new evidence? Yes, there's plenty of hard evidence. In fact, there's hard evidence that isn't new, that is old, that the Warren Commission did not refer to in its conclusion. I can describe some of the old hard evidence and some of the new for you if you'd like.

Martin..If you would, please.

Garrison..Sure. An example of the old hard evidence that was available to the Warren Commission, probably slipped out by accident, and wasn't mentioned seriously in the conclusion, is Exhibit 392, which describes the cause of death of President Kennedy as being a gunshot ^{would} ~~would~~ of the left temple.

Garrison Anybody that wants to know one of the places the President got hit which was not described in the conclusion of the Warren Commission can go look in their library at Exhibit 392 and they'll see in Dr. McClellan's handwriting "gunshot wound of the left temple". Now the President was also shot in the right temple, it took the right side of his head off. He was shot at least two times in the front, and this is why the Warren Commission, to the last man, refused to look at the film, because they knew he was shot from the front at least twice, in the front of his head. As a result they did not look at any of the film, not one of them did, and they fooled the American people, consciously, knowingly,...

Martin By design?

Garrison By design, Of course, by design. They had to know, just as Lyndon Johnson had to know, that the President was shot at least twice from the front, and they pretended that this man shot him from the back. Now this is ~~just~~ just an example of old evidence. There's a great deal of old evidence. But every now and then we hear the chief justice, Earl Warren, and we hear this mickey mouse Attorney General Ramsay Clark making announcements like, "We have seen nothing new." Well, there's a great deal of evidence that's never been shown the American people and they have to know it.

Martin Could you show us some of that now, or talk about it now?

Garrison Yeah, I can give you, I'll give you some examples. Here's a picture. Here's a picture taken 10 minutes, 10 minutes after the President of the United States had been assassinated. Here's a Dallas police officer, there's a Dallas deputy sheriff, and here's a federal agent. It's across from the grassy knoll. This has to be a federal agent because he's about to pick up a bullet, He's about to pick up the bullet that killed John Kennedy. This deputy sheriff and this police officer would not allow this man to do it unless he had authority. He is not with the Dallas police and he is now with the Dallas Sheriff's office, so he is necessarily a federal agent. Now down here, by his hand, are pieces of the President's

Martin Do you have an enlargement of that?

Garrison Yes. Maybe this would be better. This is the enlargement. You can see it here. Here is the federal agent's hand reaching down here and scattered around here are pieces of the President's head, and tissue and so forth. And sitting right in the middle, right in the center, is the bullet which happened to land on its base.

Martin Would it be a bullet that would be fired from a rifle or a small arm?

Garrison This is a bullet which would be fired from a small arm. It couldn't possibly fit in any rifle, much less Lee Oswalds. As a matter of fact, the caliber is very large. It, it's a 45 caliber bullet. This is what was used to kill the President, the final shot. This is why all the witnesses described the final shot as being so different in sound. For example, one witness described it as having a sound as if it came from a cave. The driver of the President's car speaks of feeling the concussion. ~~Another~~ ^{Another} person in the parade tells about the fact that the shot seemed to come from right by the car, and in a minute I'll tell you where the shot did come from. But this is a 45 caliber bullet. Here is a federal agent reaching for it. Now this is a larger picture of the federal agent reaching for the 45 caliber bullet. Now I'll show you what this federal agent did when he realized a camera was on him. He's got the bullet clutched in his hand, the bullet that killed John Kennedy. He had his head turned away from the camera. It's a little late because we have a profile view there. His head is turned away and you can see by the time on the top of the book depository.,

Martin 12:40.

Garrison 12:40, 10 minutes after John Kennedy was killed. Now this bullet which killed John Kennedy, which has markings on it that would show the automatic gun from which it came, hand gun, had never been heard from since. The Warren Commission did not mention it in 26 volumes. It is not mentioned. Yet the federal government knew 10 minutes after

the murder of John Kennedy that John Kennedy was murdered with this bullet, Lyndon Johnson had to know it. The F.B.I. had to know it. The Secret Service had to know it and the American people have been fooled.

Martin Do you know the identity of this man that you say is a federal agent?

Garrison We have been unable to determine the identity of this federal agent because we can't get any information of any kind from the federal government on this case. They're completely obstructive in their approach. But this picture, along with the earlier one, shows that the bullet which killed John Kennedy, which fell in the grass with pieces of the President's head, was in the hands of the federal government 10 minutes after the ^{President}~~President~~ was dead, one week before the Warren Commission was appointed. The point is, Murphy, they had to know 10 minutes after the President was dead that Lee Oswald could not possibly have done it. This means that the federal government knowingly participated in framing Lee Oswald. Lyndon Johnson had to know this. Members of the Warren Commission had to know this, the federal investigative agencies had to know it, and some members of the Dallas police had to know it. Although I'm sure that the great majority of the Dallas ~~the~~ Police did ~~not~~ know it.

Martin Is this what you were referring to in the forward that you wrote for Harold Weisberg's book, when you said instead of running down the men who killed John Kennedy, the U.S. government simply ratified his execution and moved on to more important matters? Is that what you were saying here?

Garrison Yes, Yes, and they did even more than that, Murphy. They ratified the execution and concealed evidence wherever possible. For example, they have, in transcribing names in Lee Oswald's notebook when you come across a name like General Walker, which is in Lee Oswald's notebook, it doesn't necessarily mean General Walker's involved, but it shows how the federal government sought to conceal the facts that there was a militant right wing group involved in this and it doesn't mean there is anything

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individuals happen to be militant right wingers at that level. They changed Walker to Volke, they, when they have a picture of a car parked in General Walker's driveway, they punched a hole through the license number so you can't read the license number, they destroyed evidence in every possible way. The President of the United States, the man who has the most to gain, the man who gained more than any other human from the assassination, is the man who issued the executive order concealing vital evidence for 75 years so that we can't look at it, so that you can't look at it, so that no American can see it for 75 years. Now this was an executive order by Lyndon Johnson, the man who gained the most from the assassination. This should not be allowed. This man should be asked many questions, why he did such a thing, but nobody asked him any.

Martin You said a moment ago you would show us or tell us where you think that bullet was fired from, that the man was picking up from the grass there. Where do you think it was fired from?

Garrison Well..this is going to be the first time I've ever shown this, but we've gotten a little tired of hearing people like Earl Warren and Ramsey Clark, who ought to know better, saying repeatedly, that they've seen nothing new. Well, I'm going to show them something new. I think we just showed them something new in this 45 caliber bullet because they've never mentioned it in 26 volumes. Right next to where the President was killed, just a little bit in front of where the President was killed, there is a sewer opening. Underneath Dealey Plaza there is a drainage system. Dealey Plaza used to have a bunch of houses and they were taken down to make the plaza. You have a surface drainage system with pipes through which men can crawl. The small ones are 15 inches wide, and the large ones are 30 inches wide. One of the assassins went, got his, made his exit through the subsurface drainage system. The one who went through the subsurface drainage system was the man who killed the President, who fired the 45 from right by the side

of the car and tore the President's head off. Now we went into the sewer one morning early in Dallas, got in ~~in~~ ^{put} in dark, ~~took~~ the top down and we found a man fits in there very easily, we also found that after shooting from it it's easy to crawl under the street through the 15 inch pipe, then you're in a 30 inch sewer which leads out of Dealey Plaza to another part of the town. Entrance can be gained through two ways to the sewer area ~~and~~ ^{I don't} have a picture of the sewer here but you can take pictures in Dallas. Entrance can be gained directly above the sewer through a manhole

Martin behind the grassy knoll?

Garrison ^{Well} No, that's another place but it can be entered above it by removing the cover of the manhole. You remember about an hour before there was a truck parked over the pavement which *Julia Mercer said* but there can also be entrance behind the picket fence through a 3x3 grating down by the overpass which lifts up, you get in and you crawl through the 15 inch tunnel and you'll end up, there's only ~~one~~ room for one man in the manhole, but he can stand up in the manhole and when he gets in there he has a clear view of the occupants of a convertible from the chest up. In other ~~words~~ we didn't know we didn't know until we put a man in there in the dark hours of the morning and waited until the sun came up and took photographs that you ~~could~~ see so clearly to the occupants inside the car, but you can.

Martin All right, when you are inside the vantage point, from inside, where is that in relation to where the man was picking up something from ~~the~~ ^{THE} grassy area ~~at~~ across the street?

Garrison Well, it's in a cattycorner kind of way, ^{it's} it's opposite, actually this is the proper way. The shooting was not due South it was towards the car as it approached diagonally slightly ^(over Martin Diagonally) and if the line continues that's where ^{that's where} the bullet ended up ^{with} where the pieces of the President's head surrounding it. This is the bullet that disappeared as soon as the federal

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which was fired from ^{the} a sewer

Martin Mr. Garrison, do you believe you have the identity of the person who was in that sewer?

Garrison I would, I would not be accurate if I said I had the identity of the man in the sewer. We now have a number of names of individuals ~~at~~ who apparently were at the operating level. I'd say four but there were so many more that I'd rather not speculate which one was standing where, so in all honesty I'd have to say the identity of that particular man, no.

Martin Was this evidence that you speak of available to the Warren Commission to your knowledge.

Garrison Well

Martin It was not mentioned in the Warren report.

Garrison No, I don't believe the Warren Commission had the slightest intention of finding out ~~the~~ the truth, I don't think that was their purpose. They had to know, to the last man on the commission, that Lee Oswald never fired a gun, just as Lyndon Johnson had to know that when he appointed the commission, so all I can say is if they were really, if they had really been interested, the information would have been made available. It wasn't that hard to find, but there was no sign of interest so I can't presume that they ever tried to get it.

Martin You're saying that when President Johnson appointed the commission ~~is~~ that he knew Lee Oswald did not fire a gun. You say that because you, of your contention that this federal agent picked up this 45 bullet.

Garrison He had to know it unless unless the federal investigative agencies are failing to report everything to him. I'm just giving him credit for being the commander in chief that's in firm control of these agencies and gets all the knowledge coming up the line. Now maybe, maybe they didn't tell him, but I know that in the service the concept is that as the commander you have the responsibility, you know what your agents know ~~is~~ is a federal agent, ~~is~~ picking up a bullet that's laying ~~x~~ in the middle of the pieces of the President's head, President Kennedy's head,

and this bullet could not have been fired from Lee Oswald's gun, and this is 10 minutes after President Kennedy was killed, so we have to presume that Washington knew that, that's why they kept it a secret so that they could frame Lee Oswald and fool the American people.

Martin Thus far sir you have an indictment, one indictment against Clay Shaw his trial is pending, when do you expect

Garrison ~~And we have~~ And we have, and we have another indictment and a conviction of Dean Andrews

Martin Perjury

Garrison Perjury in connection with the assassination investigation

Martin When do you expect the trial of Clay Shaw to actually get under way. There's been one postponement already.

Garrison Clay Shaw's trial was set, initially set, a month or so back. We were ready to go to trial. Clay Shaw's lawyers asked for a continuance, they tried to get a six months' continuance, we succeeded in getting it cut down. Presently it's set for February. We're ready to go to trial tomorrow morning, we will be ready in February.

Martin Do you believe the trial will get under way in February?

Garrison I can't comment on what Mr. Shaw's lawyers might do I don't know.

Martin What can you tell us about the Shaw case. Do you have an imonclad case against this man.

Garrison Murphy, one thing I have not commented on since the day I charged him is to the Clay Shaw case itself. I don't want to do anything to hurt his case and also to give a basis for appeal afterwards, so with regard to Mr. Shaw, I will only say that he has to be presumed innocent under our system of law.

Martin To my knowledge there are at least two people that you have charged, and are trying to get returned to the State of Louisiana, one, Gordon Novel* who is fighting extradition in the State of Ohio and the other is Sergio Arcaucha who is fighting extradition from Dallas, Texas. These extradition

Do they hamper it?

Garrison Well it's a , it's a complication largely because it makes it harder for us to go into new areas. It won't make any difference in the Shaw case because we've completed our investigation of the Shaw case. We don't need any more witnesses, we don't need any more evidence, but it does slow us down and cramp our style, so to speak, but I'd sum it up simply by saying that we're not using that as an excuse, that's not going to keep us from getting every man involved unless they find a way to remove me from office. If they try to get rid of me they're still wasting their time, they're going to lose because every picture we've developed every file we have is made into six copies and ~~it~~ is distributed to other people in case something happens to me

Martin Mr. Garrison there is a former secret service man who is now in the penitentiary who says he was framed, and put there because he wanted to give information to the Warren Commission about the assassination. This man, Abraham E Bolden, has mentioned a certain individual that he tailed in Chicago. ^{Do} you know the man that he w is talking about, and is he pertinent to your investigation?

Garrison There are indications rather strong indications that Abraham Bolden a former secret service ^{AGENT} was framed and put away because he wanted to testify before the Warren Commission with regard to facts which the federal government did not want gone in to. It's already been brought out at one of his hearings that the United States attorney at the time, in Chicago, framed him and gave instructions to the main witness to frame ~~him~~. The main witness has testified that he committed perjury but Mr. Bolden is still being locked up . With regard to the individual named, it's one of the people that we've been trying to locate, a Latin American individual who at an earlier stage was involved in the plan to kill John Kennedy in Chicago, a plan of operation which apparently was later moved

to Dallas.

Martin..Mr. Garrison, you claim that the rifle originally brought down from the Texas School Book Depository was not equipped with a telescopic sight. Do you have any hard evidence to back up this claim.

Garrison..Yes, we have a photograph which we obtained, actually I found ^{it up} ~~it~~ in New York going through a lot of old photographs. The original photograph was taken by a man named Montesanto, Montesanto in Dallas, and it was taken at approximately five minutes after one. Unless the federal government puts some pressure on them ^{and} they're going to change it to ^{another} ~~another~~ time, this is what they've been doing with ~~the~~ witnesses. But, he advised us when we located him that he took this about five minutes after one and it shows, it shows a Dallas policeman with a rifle that they've just just brought down from the Book Depository, holding it up, and they have a number of Dallas police officers and and citizens around, and underneath it's labeled "The assassin's rifle." and if you look closely at it you'll see that it's a bolt-action rifle and it has no telescopic sight. This was brought out of the Book Depository approximately 20 minutes before Oswald's rifle was even found.

Martin..Mr. Garrison, you're very strong in your anti-government statements now. --

Garrison..I'm strong in anti-government statement, Murphy, because of what they did in this case, fooling the American people. I have to be strong because they're continuing to do it. This, the Warren report is a lie. This picture shows it's a lie.

Martin..But my question was to be, were you as strong, or did you seriously question motives and the way ~~the~~ the federal government operated prior to the assassination.

Garrison..No. No. I, I was like most of the people in the country and that's why I don't blame newsmen who disagree with me, because I was the same way. Just a little over a year ago I didn't question the Warren Commission report.

It did not occur to me that the President would have federal agencies conceal the truth from the people, it didn't occur to me that all these honorable men would conceal the truth from the people, that they ~~would~~ had frame a man who never fired a shot Oswald, and that they would knowingly protect the assassins. I've learned a lot since then, but I never dreamed of it. And, because I was one of those who didn't bother to look into it I can't really be too mad at members of the press who haven't learned about what happened either.

Martin..Some people have accused you of opening this investigation to gain the spotlight and then use that spotlight to further your own political career.

Garrison..Well let me answer that by saying, first of all, I don't care about politics. I still don't know how I got elected. I was trying to remove an office I thought was incompetent and I thought somebody supported by political organization would get in. I was not supported by any political organization. Secondly, my main hobby is being left alone. As a matter of fact I think you know me well enough by now to know that I really don't care that much about publicity, nor about politics. When this is over I'd like to go back to law practice and ultimately just get into teaching law. I couldn't care less about politics.

Martin..You have no political aspirations.

Garrison..I have no political aspirations at all but I do feel strongly about my government lying to the people ~~xxxxxxx~~ of this country and lying to the people of the world, and we have caught 'em, and I'm going to see that every last man, woman and child in this country knows about the lie.

Martin..Once when you were in New York, sir, I put you in touch, ~~with~~ we picked up the telephone and called Robert Oswald; Lee Harvey's brother. Have you since spoken with him and talked ~~about~~ with him about the case?

we are

Garrison..No, for one thing we are such a small ~~gg~~ group, we are so many leads behind

I have wanted to talk to Robert Oswald and other individuals connected with Lee Oswald's family, but I just have not had time and because of prior heavier priorities. I hope to, ultimately.

Martin..What about Jack Ruby? Do you think he was involved in the assassination?

Garrison..I don't like to ^{to} ~~comment~~ comment in any critical way on somebody who is who's dead, but I have to say because it's, he played such an important role that he was very much involved in the entire thing. ~~Not~~ Not merely in disposing, in the execution of Oswald, so as, so that he wouldn't talk, because Oswald obviously was already doing some talking. As you know the 12 hours of interrogation of Oswald has produced no transcript. The government has no transcript, no tape, no nothing. And the reason they don't have it, obviously, is because he was saying things. He was beginning to say things. He was not going to be a patsy, and he said he was a patsy. So, in addition to executing Oswald, to the relief I'm sure of the federal government, Jack Ruby was involved in the assassination.

Martin..Mr. Garrison, where was this assassination conceived, in what city. A lot of people have called Dallas a city of hate and blamed Dallas for the assassination. Is that a fair accusation in your mind?

Garrison..Murphy, there are many things that I don't know, and where it was initially conceived, I truly do not know that. I can say this, that the one thing that is clear is the great majority of people in Dallas not only didn't want this, this is the last thing they wanted to occur. As a matter of fact, it's clear from the reception that they had set up, from the way they treated John Kennedy when he came in, that the people of Dallas wanted to show that Dallas is not a city of hate.

Martin..Then, Mr. Garrison, are you saying that the city of Dallas should not be ^{as such} blamed for the assassination?

Garrison..Well yes, in a sense. You can't blame Dallas. Certainly, the citizens of Dallas did not want this ~~to~~ to occur, and of course, you cannot really call Dallas a city of hate. Dallas is a city full of good Americans. It happens to be the place which was chosen by a number of people who were

going to kill the President. But I don't think it would be fair at all to blame Dallas.

Martin..What do you think of William Manchester's book, "Death of a President"?

Garrison..Not too much.

Martin..Mr. Garrison, if you do not get a conviction of Clay Shaw, what next? what happens to your investigation?

Garrison..I'd rather not comment on the Clay Shaw case. I will ^{only} quote a statement I made, I think was it last February, before the Clay Shaw arrest, in which I said that our office does not anticipate losing any ^{cases} ~~cases~~ with regard to the assassination. However, we would, if such a thing happened, continue to investigate because we have many leads into many other areas.

Martin..If the Warren Commission were to reopen its investigation, and I might preface this by saying here on Channel 8 we ran an Opinion-8 question some days ago asking that question, nearly 3,000 people responded in their telephone answers, and of that number, 71% said they would like to see the Warren Commission reopen the investigation, 29% said no. But if the Warren Commission were to reopen, would you go and testify before it and give them the evidence you have?

Garrison..The Warren Commission itself? You mean THE Warren Commission, the same one? Murphy, that would be like using a fox to guard your chickens. There wouldn't be any chickens left the next morning. There would be no chance of our turning evidence over to these men, who have participated so obviously in fooling the American people. However, if there were any investigation at a serious level, let's say a Congressional level, and it appeared to be congressmen who were not political, who were interested in bringing the truth to the American people, they can have everything I have, all the evidence, In fact, they can pick up the investigation on the areas outside of Orleans Parish. I would be delighted, because actually we have never pretended to be great investigators, we stumbled into it. Our only claim is that we won't quit and we won't back down under pressure.

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Martin..Mr. Garrison, a lot of people say that your investigation is not helping the U.S. image abroad. Does this concern you?

Garrison..There's an old saying, which I think comes from Virgil, and that saying translated into English, roughly, is "Let justice be done, though the Heavens fall." The Warren Commission conclusion is a fraud. The federal government's investigation was fraudulent. Instead of bringing evidence to the people of America, they concealed the evidence. I want the people of this country to have the truth, the entire truth, and they have not had it. In the long run, the best possible thing for the image of the United States is for the people of the world to see that we are concerned about the truth, and that we are concerned about justice, and that the attitude of our country is that we will let justice be done though the Heavens fall.

Martin..Mr. Garrison, thank you very much for appearing on "Face-to-Face."