

Transcripts: Tapes of New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison

Before death of Ferrie on 2/22/67

There are a number of individuals that we have been looking into--not just one--whose role we are interested in, and I think we are developing, not just one. But even more important, we have not mentioned Ferrie's name, we have not mentioned anyone. We take the attitude that they are innocent until proven guilty. These people haven't even been charged, yet their names are being mentioned by the papers --Ferrie's name is being mentioned by the papers, with the inference of his involvement, one way or another. All I can say is that we have mentioned no names --I think it is unfair. This is just another instance of the irresponsibility of the two New Orleans newspapers in this case.

Mike Wallace quoting Garrison 2/23/67

As far as I'm concerned, he finished, there is no evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald fired a gun in Dallas.

2/24/67

The staff and I have, several weeks ago--I thought that was made clear when I said some days ~~mm~~ ago that we would make arrests, there would be convictions. I certainly wouldn't say with confidence that we would make arrests and have convictions afterwards if I did ~~not~~ know that we had solved the assassination of President Kennedy without any shadow of a doubt. I can't imagine that people would think that I would guess and say something like that lightly: There is no question about it--we know what cities were involved, we know how it was done, in the essential respects, we know the key individuals involved, and we are in the process of developing evidence now. I thought I made that clear days ago. On the other hand, that does not mean any arrests are imminent--there are some individuals that I would like to arrest now, so I will know they will be around to arrest later, I have to take the risk that they will be around, because you can develop a better case if you ~~mm~~ prolong arrests until you can have the whole group rather than key individuals. Now, I may have contributed to some misunderstanding about imminence, because I am so darned tired, I snapped at some reporters when they said, will arrests be imminent, and I said, No, they'll be maybe in the next thirty years. It won't take that long, but they won't be imminent, because we are now building a case, and I might add, it is a case that we will not lose--and anybody that wants to bet against this is invited to, but they're going to be disappointed.

2/24/67 (at a luncheon at which he received a promise of private funds to continue the investigation)

...that we would make arrests and have convictions afterwards if I did not know that we had solved the assassination of President Kenady beyond any shadow of a dojbt. I can't imagine that people would think that I would guess, and say something like that lightly. There is no question about it: we know what cities were involved, we know how it was done, in the essential respects, we know the key individuals involved, and we are in the process of developing evidence now--And also, I might add, getting every individual who has substantial knowledge, and did not reveal (it) to the authorities because he did not want to get involved, and this includes a number of individuals, and they know who they are. (Aren't you afraid they might get away, Sir?) I don't think so, I think the only way they can get away from us is by killing themselves, because we are going to get every one of them.

2/24/67

...there will be an excellent chance that they will choose the same route, that's why I probably replied a little nastily--but I can't give you a timetable because I am afraid of the effects.

Question Not a timetable, Sir, I was not asking you to give a timetable--I was merely interested in your investigation to date, what you felt you could give to the public, and more importantly, to the people of the country who are concerned...

Garrison I feel that I should give the people of this country who are concerned about the assassination absolutely nothing--I have no comment. I think that I should give them results, and I am going to give them results.

Garrison 2/18/67 CBS-TV Network

"To answer that I think I'd have to go back to an old Latin phrase --Let justice be done though the heavens fall. Sometimes the cost of truth is more than expected, and sometimes it's less than expected. But we can never avoid an inquiry into the truth because it might create discomfort or it might disturb sensibilities in some areas, if there's ever any question at all, in a case like this, of the whole truth perhaps not being revealed, then it has to be dug out, though the heavens fall."