



BACKLASH



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A Profile in Courage

Jim Garrison

JIM GARRISON IGNORED HIS POLITICAL FUTURE AND TOOK ON THE SECRET GOVERNMENT IN A VAIN EFFORT TO PROVE THAT THERE IS EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW, FOR THE AFFLUENT AS WELL AS THE POOR. NOW HE IS PAYING FOR HIS MISTAKE.

~~Jim Garrison is one of the last of a dying-out breed of incorruptible district attorneys who has likely sacrificed a promising political career in favor of upholding his oath of office. Now his old nemesis, the Central Intelligence Agency, encouraged by its successful behind-the-scenes manipulations in securing an acquittal for ex-Army Major Clay L. Shaw on charges that he conspired to assassinate President Kennedy, has begun the final phase of its campaign to destroy Garrison's reputation, to "neutralize" once and forever this threat who dared focus the world's attention on the absurdity of the Warren Commission's report . . . yes, on the CIA itself. Not satisfied with the news media's censorship of the facts that surfaced at the Shaw trial (facts that while they apparently failed to convince a jury of Shaw's guilt "beyond a reasonable doubt," nonetheless proved that the Warren Commission's findings were ballyhoo and reeked of a definite CIA involvement in the assassination), the agency is now bent on giving the coup de grace to Garrison's political future via its lackeys in the controlled press. Most of us, having thought the Shaw case dead and buried along with Lee Harvey Oswald, were surprised to see it dragged out again, courtesy of the August 26 issue of LOOK magazine. But there it was, the essence of "timeliness," as they say in the propaganda field (Garrison comes up for re-election shortly). "THE PERSECUTION OF CLAY SHAW," glared its title in boldface - "How one man ruined another and subverted our legal system." And just to show the readers that this was not a malicious fable concocted by some kook, the byline revealed the author to be no less than Warren Rogers, the chief of LOOK's Washington Bureau (however, LOOK forgot to mention that Rogers was on the CIA's payroll not too many years back and still visits its headquarters regularly). Making sure to point out such significant and pertinent factors as the size of Garrison's shoes, Rogers began his tirade by describing Shaw as a prominent, retired businessman, genteel and discreet, "a pillar of New Orleans society," who wouldn't conspire to harm a fly, much less a President. "Once moderately well-off," he continued, "Shaw is broke and in debt" . . . despite the \$23,500.00 paid to his battery of lawyers by the CIA. Garrison, of course, was pictured as the guy wearing the black hat, a drunk, a perverter of "justice," obviously demented, who runs amuck in Orleans Parish indiscriminately arresting "good citizens" for the trivial crimes of perjury, bribery and theft. Wading through the author's distortions, omissions and outright falsities such as "He (Garrison) failed to produce any evidence that any of the three conspirators knew each other at all," the readers end up learning to their amazement that it was the Mafia - not the CIA - that planned the murder of their president. Yet, Rogers summed up his own slanderous attack rather nicely when he closed with the query: "In a land supposedly governed by laws and order, what have we all lost?" Indeed, what have we all lost?~~