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Tampan Subpoenaed by Garrison

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A Tampa free lance writer yesterday was subpoenaed by Dist. Atty. James Garrison of New Orleans in connection with Garrison's probe of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Kerry Wendell Thornley, 29, of 726 51st St. S., said at his home here that he has nothing new to tell Garrison but said he would appear in New Orleans Feb. 8-9 "if I'm legally required to do so."

Garrison, in announcing the subpoena, said Thornley hadn't told the Warren Commission everything about his association with Lee Harvey Oswald, described by Garrison and the Commission as a Marine Corps buddy of Thornley's.

"I've been half expecting this," said Thornley, who has lived at the 51st Street address with his wife, Clara, since last October.

"I'm very, very skeptical that Oswald killed Kennedy or had anything to do with it. The last time I saw him was



—Staff Photo by Mark Foley

Thornley Expresses Mild Surprise

... says he has nothing new to tell Garrison

in June 1959. I never saw him in New Orleans. I told the Warren Commission in April, 1964 in Washington all I knew."

Thornley said Garrison's action was prompted by information supplied by Barbara Reid, a New Orleans practitioner of witchcraft. He said he knew Oswald at El Toro, Calif., in 1959.

The Tampan is the author of, "Oswald," a book on the accused assassin published in 1965 by New Classics House, Chicago.

"I don't think Oswald had any best buddies," said Thornley. "I was a close acquaintance. One time, I remember, we had an argument about waiting on a parade and I told him, 'Well, comrade, comes the revolution and you'll change all that.' Everybody in the outfit (Marine Air Control Squadron 9) put him down as an atheist and communist."

He said Oswald didn't appear to be insane but was "a little bit of an oddball."

Thornley said his and Os- (Continued on Page 11, Col. 1)

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wald's paths apparently crossed in New Orleans before Kennedy's death but he never saw Oswald. He said Barbara Reid is working with Garrison and "is charging around New Orleans" with one of Garrison's assistants.

Garrison said Thornley was closely associated with, Oswald in New Orleans in September 1963.

"To say that Mr. Thornley failed to tell the whole truth (to the Warren Commission) and that there was not the slightest effort to elicit from him the whole truth is an understatement," said Garrison.

Thornley said he agreed with Garrison in that the Warren Commission wasn't as thorough as it should have been in its probe of the President's murder.

"I would have been much more suspicious of me than they (commission) were," said Thornley.

He said he never knew Jack Ruby, the killer of Oswald.

Thornley, who attended the University of Southern California for one year, said: "I won't have anything new to tell the grand jury because I

didn't see Oswald after 1959 and had no contact with him. I wasn't his closest friend as a lot of people have said. He had no friends that I knew about.

"I distrust Garrison very strongly and, primarily, it's for subjective reasons," he added. "I've given no thought to getting a lawyer. Ordinarily, I'd forget it but in dealing with Garrison, I might go ahead and get one."

The 5 ft. 10 in., sandy haired, 140-lb. Los Angeles native accepted Garrison's action with ostensible aplomb.

He said he was in New Orleans waiting on tables in Arnaud's Restaurant on Nov. 22, 1963, when Kennedy was shot in Dallas. He said he had waited on Garrison's table on various occasions during his days in New Orleans.

"I didn't like Kennedy, but then there isn't a president in the history of the United States I've particularly liked," said Thornley, who classifies himself as a former atheist turned deist and a "pacifist down to self defense."

He said Garrison is "in a corner, out on a limb; if he does not have anything, he's going to have to manufacture it."