

R. F. Kennedy seeks Garrison before end

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There are guns between me and the White House," Robert Kennedy to Jim Garrison.

On Tuesday evening, June 4, just one hour before the polls closed in the California primary, I was being interviewed in Washington, D.C. by John Highlower over television station WFAN.

I was asked why Robert Kennedy appeared to accept the findings of the Warren Commission. For some months I had been aware of conversation between emissaries from Robert Kennedy to New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. (Since the confidence was not originally shared with me, I am not at liberty to reveal the names of the emissaries. However, should Garrison be asked for that information by the press, it is conceivable that he might reveal the names.) Yet I felt that it would be unfair to breach a confidential relationship while the primary campaign proceeded.

It was quite plain however, that as the last primary was about to end and that no remarks that I made in Washington could reach California in time to influence any voters, my revealing the confidential exchanges could not affect the primary result.

Accordingly I answered the question frankly and disclosed the nature of the various meetings between Garrison and Robert Kennedy's representatives. Over a period of several weeks, two different emissaries had arrived in New Orleans. Each had sought out Jim Garrison; each stated that he was carrying a message from Robert Kennedy; each was known by Garrison to be associated with Robert Kennedy; each carried almost the identical message; each said that Robert Kennedy did not believe the conclusions of the Warren Commission and agreed with Garrison that a conspiracy had taken the life of President Kennedy.

Robert Kennedy, they said, would investigate the assassination of his brother thoroughly if he were elected president and would vigorously prosecute those responsible. The essential purpose of the visits was to "re-assure" Garrison that despite his public utterances, Robert Kennedy very firmly held a different private view.

Garrison asked why Senator Kennedy felt it necessary to suppress his dissent. Each emissary answered with the same phrase: He (Robert Kennedy) knows that there are guns between him and the White House.

Garrison pointed out that John Kennedy had not been assassinated during the campaign but long after his election. This was proof, Garrison added, that the presidency offered no immunity from an assassin's bullet.

Garrison said: "The lesson of November 22 is very clear. Any man who wishes to dismantle the war-machine and who appears to be in a position to do it will have his head blown off in the middle of an American city." Garrison said that the only defence was a full and open assault against the assassins and full disclosure of the role played by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Garrison pleaded with the emissaries to convince Robert Kennedy that his life was more endangered by his silence than it would be by his public disclosure of the known facts.

Robert Kennedy had said that if he lost the California primary he would withdraw from the presidential campaign. Clearly there would be no reason to kill him unless he won. Minutes after his victory was assured in California he was executed.

Ramsay Clark, the attorney general of the United States, immediately stated that there had

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