



Looking at the puppets assembled in the theatre's museum from all over the world is another fascinating pastime.



In the auditorium for the younger children there are 220 seats altogether. This is not so lavishly set up but is superb in the technical respect. Sergei Obratsov considers 220 seats to be the limit, enabling actors to hold the attention of the audience and preventing restless viewers from disturbing the others.

Both auditoriums are equipped with television transmission apparatus. This means that the performance can be followed from the rooms of the actors, the director, the management and — this is very important — from the vestibule where parents wait for their children.

The rear wall of the theatre is entirely of glass. From here there is a view of a little park. In the foyer next to the buffet, there is a winter garden with tanks containing interesting fish and small reptiles.

One more miracle — on the facade of the building is a "golden" clock in the form of a fairy-tale Russian town. Each hour an animal appears in one of its little houses — to the sound of music, and at twelve o'clock the cock crows and all the animals come out.

The theatre museums is a beautiful affair with an all-black decor. Even the ceiling, even the carpet on the floor. The showcases, in which hundreds of puppets from all over the world are displayed is a riot of colour. When Sergei Obratsov was asked for his opinion of his new theatre, he replied: "It's the most sophisticated Punch and Judy booth of the space age."

by Mikhail SAGATELIYAN

DAITIAS:

Who How Why

Condensed
from the magazine
AURORA
Leningrad

(conclusion)



Translated by
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The Thorny Path of Jim Garrison

There probably isn't a newspaper reader in the world who doesn't know the name of Jim Garrison, District Attorney of New Orleans. He is better known than all the authors of all the books on the killing in Dallas put together. Why is that? In the first place, because he, like they, wished to raise the curtain on the mystery surrounding the death of John Kennedy. Secondly, and more importantly, the New Orleans District Attorney is the first and so far the only person in a position of authority in the United States who has attempted to carry out a new investigation of the crime. Various writers have only demanded such an investigation. Jim Garrison pursued it.

Who is this Jim Garrison? An American 20th century Don Quixote, fearlessly challenging official Washington windmills? A smart politician hoping to make capital out of a burning issue? Or perhaps a shrewd, calculating one, acting in the interests of some grouping which wishes to settle accounts with its enemies and the tragedy in Dallas presents an excellent opportunity? And finally, did his investigation and subsequent court case in any way help to uncover the truth? Did it bring us any closer to the sources of the conspiracy?

In October 1966, in other words at a time when demands that the Lyndon Johnson administration re-open the inquiry into the

circumstances of John Kennedy's assassination were at a height, Russell B. Long, Democratic Senator from Louisiana, expressed his grave doubts to Garrison about the Warren Commission's conclusions that Lee Harvey Oswald was a lone assassin. The Senator pointed out that before the shooting in Dallas, Oswald had lived in New Orleans for several months and his activities there could bear investigation. Senator Long added that Garrison could count on his support...

The District Attorney certainly wasn't acting on his own. Behind him there was a special committee composed of over 50 prominent New Orleans businessmen led by the millionaire Rolt. This committee raised additional finances over the meagre official budget of the D.A.'s office in order to cover the far-ranging investigation which Garrison launched shortly after his conversation with Senator Long.

Garrison was also supported in his endeavour by Cardinal Cushing of Boston, close friend and father-confessor to the Kennedy family. "I think they should follow it through," the Cardinal said of the New Orleans probe. "I never believed that the assassination was the work of one man." Garrison maintained that Robert Kennedy approved of his investigation.

And so, in the fall of 1966, without any publicity, the New Orleans District Attorney's office opened an investigation into the

circumstances of the assassination of President Kennedy.

On February 17, 1967, the *New Orleans States-Item* reported the fact. Several dozen reporters from New York, Washington, Chicago and a number of foreign correspondents immediately converged on New Orleans. By February 19 the press was quoting Garrison: "We have been investigating the role of the city of New Orleans in the assassination of President Kennedy, and we have made some progress — I think substantial progress... what's more, there will be arrests."

I won't go into details concerning the people arrested by Garrison, the charges levelled against them and the court findings. All that has been thoroughly publicised. I just want to briefly tell the story of the New Orleans case.

Clay Shaw, a New Orleans businessman, was accused of being party (under the name Clay Bertrand) to preparations to assassinate President Kennedy. The plotters included David Ferrie, a former civil aviation pilot, Lee Harvey Oswald and a number of others who met in Ferrie's apartment in the presence of witness Perry Russo. The charge, as Garrison reiterated more than once, was painstakingly documented.

On March 14, 1967, a preliminary hearing was held in New Orleans to determine whether there was enough evidence against Shaw to bring him to trial. On March 17, after a four-day

hearing, the three presiding judges ruled there was sufficient evidence to hold Clay Shaw for trial.

All the sessions of the grand jury were held in camera and it heard Garrison's evidence against Clay Shaw and his accomplices (most of whom were dead — Oswald, Ruby and Ferrie). The American press believed that Garrison would lose his case since members of the grand jury were in possession of the Warren Commission Report which stated that both Oswald and Ruby were operating on their own initiative. As far as the press knew, the District Attorney had only one witness — Perry Russo.

And then, on the 22nd of March, after examining the evidence against the accused, the grand jury constituted that *there was a conspiracy directed against President Kennedy, that Clay Shaw was a participant, that the evidence was overwhelming on this score, and that the trial must proceed.* This decision of the grand jury created a sensation: *an American court had in fact repudiated the Report of the Warren Commission both as a document and as an official verdict.* The sceptics had miscalculated. Jim Garrison was triumphant.

After innumerable delays and postponements insisted upon mainly by the defence, the trial took place at last in February 1969. Clay Shaw was acquitted. Obviously, unlike during the closed grand jury hearings, the prosecution witnesses did not

sound very convincing. The District Attorney himself seemed to have lost interest in his case and turned up at only two or three sessions.

What had happened? Why was Garrison's case lost? Why, after putting so much effort and energy into investigating the "crime of the century" did the D.A. cool off? And finally, does the fact that the case was lost prove that there was no conspiracy and that the Warren Report was correct? Not at all.

All the investigations and preparations for the trial serve as vivid, if indirect proof, that the charges were based on truth. The justice of this conclusion will be seen if one examines the obstacles that were placed in the way of the District Attorney. The very fact that Garrison had such a difficult time of it is in itself convincing proof that he was on the right track and had arrived at the truth.

As already mentioned, on February 17, 1967, the world learned that an investigation into the Kennedy assassination was underway in New Orleans. The next day the White House made public a document drawn up by a special commission which called on the nation to fight the crime syndicate, Cosa Nostra. The document contained quite a number of breath-taking sensations and exposures. Is it possible that the publication of the document on the day following the news from New Orleans was pure coincidence? Of course. But the practice

of killing one undesirable sensation with the help of another or other sensations is so widespread in America that the coincidence puts one on guard, to say the least. Whatever the case, it proved impossible to deflect attention away from New Orleans. After Garrison's investigation became known, events moved swiftly and evoked mounting interest throughout the world.

On February 19 Jim Garrison told reporters that the Warren Commission was wrong and that he would prove it.

Washington made no comment. Not a single highly placed official had a word to say in the two weeks following the New Orleans announcement. However, in the very first days after the press reports appeared, someone's mysterious hand made itself felt. On the evening of February 18, 1967, in one of New Orleans' numerous bars, the District Attorney met a former employee of Batista's secret police, the counter-revolutionary exile, Seraphino Eladio del Valle. Garrison showed del Valle a picture of Oswald together with "an unidentified man". That is how the photograph was called in the Warren Report where it is listed under No. 237. Del Valle recognized the "unidentified man" right away — it was one of the leaders of the Cuban counter-revolutionaries in the United States, one Manuel Garcia Gonzalez. Del Valle agreed to arrange a meeting between Garrison and Gonzales. On the evening of

February 20 both Cubans disappeared. Three days later the mutilated body of del Valle was found in an abandoned car in Miami. Gonzales simply disappeared from Louisiana.

On February 22 David Ferrie was found dead in his apartment. Traces of cyanide were discovered on fragments of a broken tumbler. The police hesitantly presumed suicide. In any case, with the death of Ferrie, Jim Garrison lost a vital witness for the prosecution, a connecting link between Clay Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald.

The day after the body of Ferrie was discovered, Jim Garrison stated that Ferrie had been the key to many mysteries surrounding the killing in Dallas and then incautiously added that he feared for the safety of others involved before the investigation was completed. On February 24, Jack Martin, a New Orleans private detective who had gathered significant information concerning the assassination for the District Attorney, left the city for an unknown destination, leaving word with a friend that he did so for reasons of "personal safety". At the end of February another leader of the Cuban counter-revolutionaries disappeared whom Garrison believed to be directly connected with the conspiracy.

Only then did Washington break its silence. The new Attorney General, Ramsey Clark, and President Johnson himself made statements.

In a brief interview given to the press, Clark stated that he was aware of Garrison's investigation and did not consider it had any foundation. According to evidence possessed by the FBI there was no connection between Clay Shaw and the assassination in Dallas, he said. In reply to persistent questioning on the matter by reporters, Clark again confirmed that Shaw had been checked out in this connection and cleared of suspicion.

The same day at a White House press conference, a reporter asked President Johnson about his attitude to the New Orleans investigation in view of the fact that it set out to demolish the Warren Report and considering that Johnson had recently stated he saw no reason to doubt the conclusions reached by the Commission.

Johnson replied he saw no reason now to repudiate any of his earlier statements.

Thus both the Attorney General and more cautiously, the President, had spoken up for Clay Shaw. Only three months later, on June 3, the Department of Justice was forced to admit that Mr. Ramsey Clark had lied on March 2: the FBI had never questioned or investigated Clay Shaw in connection with the assassination of John Kennedy. Washington's battle with Jim Garrison had taken a scandalous turn: in an effort to preserve some credibility on the part of the public in the Warren Report, the

Attorney General had resorted to an outright lie.

On March 2 another attempt was made to thwart Garrison's inquiries. The New York radio reporter of the *Hearst World International Service* announced that Garrison intended to prove that the assassination of President Kennedy was carried out on Fidel Castro's orders and that the real reason for Oswald's trip to Mexico was not to obtain a Cuban visa, but in order to receive instructions from the Cuban embassy. The American press picked up the statement and began to comment on it.

At the back of the whole provocative manoeuvre, lay the desire to undermine faith in the "Clay Shaw case". Well aware that by 1967 almost no one in America or abroad accepted the "Communist conspiracy" version, the enemies of the New Orleans District Attorney counted on the fact that if people thought that that red herring was the purpose of Garrison's investigation, they would lose interest.

However, it didn't work. Jim Garrison denied the Hearst allegations as to the trend of his investigations and flatly announced that no foreign state was involved in the assassination of John Kennedy. When the whole truth became known, he went on, a lot of people, including the President of the United States, were going to lose sleep.

On top of everything, Garrison was seeking another witness who

could shed light on the conspiracy. His name was Gordon Novel and he was the owner of one of the biggest bars in New Orleans. However, having been warned, he sold his business and disappeared on the eve of his impending arrest. After a considerable search, Garrison's men located Novel in Columbus, Ohio. In response to a request from New Orleans, the local authorities at first detained Novel. Then the real fun started.

In reply to the official request for Novel's extradition made by the State of Louisiana in order to have him appear before the grand jury in the trial of Clay Shaw, the Governor of Ohio stated that Novel would be handed over only if the New Orleans D.A. office gave a written affidavit that Novel would not be questioned about "events connected with the assassination of President Kennedy"!

Gordon Novel was a key witness in the Clay Shaw case because he was a CIA agent. This is not surmise or logical guesswork on the part of Garrison and his investigators. Here is the proof. On May 23, 1967, Novel's lawyer, Stephen Plotkin, was forced to admit that "his client served as an intermediary between the CIA and anti-Castro Cubans in New Orleans and Miami prior to the April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion". The same day the Associated Press reported that "when Novel first fled from New Orleans, he headed straight for McLean,

Virginia, which is the central Intelligence Agency suburb. This is not surprising, because Gordon Novel was a CIA employee in the early sixties".

This did not represent the whole truth. In Novel's abandoned flat in New Orleans, a valuable document was found that testified to the fact that Novel had not only been a CIA agent in the past, but remained one up to the time he fled the city. The paper, written in Novel's hand (which handwriting experts testified to), was a draft of a report made by Novel to his CIA superior, "Mr. Weiss". It is an interesting fact that Novel's attorney also admitted later that: "Everything in the letter as far as Novel is concerned is actually the truth."

Here are the highlights of the draft report: "I took the liberty of writing you direct and apprising you of current situation expecting you to forward this through appropriate channels. Our connection and activity of that period involved individuals presently about to be indicted as conspirators in Mr. Garrison's investigation."

Novel goes on to warn that Garrison's probe was threatening to expose his ties with the Double-Check Corporation in Miami and therefore it was essential to take necessary counter-measures through military intelligence since Novel himself, his associates and lawyers, had run out of legal loopholes to forestall the District Attorney.

Knowing enough about the ways and means resorted to by the CIA in the case of blown agents whose existence threatens to throw light on the super-secret operations of the "Langley Monster", Novel warned Mr. Weiss that his death would not be in the interests of his employers. "Our attorneys and others are in possession of complete sealed files containing all information concerning this matter." In case of his disappearance, accidental or otherwise, the files would be made public in different areas of the country simultaneously.

Apparently Novel's threat was duly noted. His life was spared and he himself was spared the necessity of giving evidence to Garrison.

Needless to say, Novel's report was couched in such a way that it does not reveal directly what actions are under discussion, but it does show that they are relevant to Garrison's investigation. The whole world knows that the District Attorney was investigating a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy. So after Novel's draft report, is it possible to doubt that the CIA was involved in some way in the events in Dallas? Also, Novel's reference to the Double-Check Corporation is additional evidence of CIA involvement. Back in 1965, in a book written by two Washington reporters, Thomas Ross and David Wise, entitled *The Invisible Government*, the Double-Check Corporation was unmasked as a CIA front

engaged in preparations for the invasion of Cuba in April 1961. And now Double-Check had turned up in Dallas!

To anyone who followed the press, it became obvious that notwithstanding the law, Washington was interfering with the District Attorney of New Orleans and the President was maintaining a discreet silence with regard to the curious doings surrounding the case.

It is my deepest conviction that the facts concerning overt and covert obstacles placed in the way of Garrison provided the lacking weight on the scales of public opinion in the United States and abroad and sent the Warren Commission Report plunging to oblivion and conversely, strengthened the feeling that Lyndon Johnson was behaving in a manner that suggested he was in some way mixed up in the Dallas crime.

That is why the actions (or inaction) of the Federal authorities, when they became known to the public, did not discredit the New Orleans District Attorney, but, on the contrary, gave added substance to his inquiries.

The trial in New Orleans continued, as did the attempts of the Federal authorities to end it. A considerable section of the press accused Garrison, as he put it, of "every kind of unethical practice except child molesting" and he added with black humour, "I expect that allegation to come shortly..." Garrison received many death threats by letter and telephone. He

kept a gun beside him at all times and hung on "On my tombstone," he joked, "may be inscribed: 'Curiosity killed the D.A.'". At one point he confessed that he was glad he had not known of the troubles in store for him when he launched his investigation. If he had, he might have had second thoughts but as it was, he had no regrets.

So, after clearly demonstrating that Garrison's investigation was impeded, to put it mildly, let us now turn to the question of what new facts he was able to uncover. He told about them himself as soon as he realised that his best defence against both physical reprisals and newspaper slanders lay in making whatever information he possessed public.

The following is the gist of two or three lengthy interviews given by Garrison with the absolute understanding that he had corroborative proof in the form of documents, photographs or statements by witnesses for each fact presented.

Who was Lee Harvey Oswald and what was his role in the assassination?

Oswald was a CIA agent. He was recruited while still a US marine. He was sent to the Soviet Union by the CIA with two main tasks: to spy and to disinform. Oswald arrived in Moscow with data concerning the American radar network around and in Japan. He underwent special training on a US military base at Arangi preparatory to his trip to the Soviet

Union. He studied Russian and "communist theory" and was allowed to subscribe to *Pravda*. This is why, having failed in his mission due to the vigilance of Soviet counter-intelligence, Oswald was not prosecuted on his return to the USA for giving secret information to the Soviet Union. By request of the CIA, the American embassy in Moscow paid the plane fares to America for Oswald and his wife. Despite existing American laws, the CIA also arranged to have an entry visa issued to Oswald's Russian wife.

After returning to the United States, Oswald received a new assignment: to take part in the training of a special CIA terrorist group consisting of Cuban counter-revolutionary exiles. The terrorists were supposed to land in Cuba and assassinate Fidel Castro.

The organising of the group took place in the geographical triangle Miami — New Orleans — Dallas. They were trained in a special school on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain near New Orleans. Jack Ruby, David Ferrie and Gordon Novel were all there. Ruby was also a CIA agent, Ferrie and Novel were operatives.

Oswald's assignment was to pretend to be a "communist". With this in mind, he organised a fictitious branch of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and distributed leaflets in its name and even spoke on the radio. However, Oswald made one serious error which almost cost him the game. He gave as the address of the New Orleans

branch of the Committee the address of a private detective agency which was widely known in the city as the headquarters of ultra-right organisations and which served as a cover address for Cuban counter-revolutionary groups. Later this mistake of Oswald's cost the lives of both owners of the detective agency — they died in mysterious circumstances in 1964, just as so many others did who knew too much about the killing in Dallas.

In the summer of 1963 the CIA received strict instructions from the Administration to stop its preparations for an attempt on the life of Fidel Castro. However, the CIA did not carry out the orders, merely switched objectives. All the above-named participants in the preparations for terrorism in Cuba, both Americans and Cubans, were fascist-minded reactionaries who hated Kennedy. Oswald, who was a right-winger, as his connections in Dallas and New Orleans testify, also hated him. Garrison was able to pin-point these connections of Oswald's. Clay Shaw, under the name Clay Bertrand, took on the leadership of the conspirators who decided, "for the good of America" that Kennedy had to be liquidated.

From the very beginning, Oswald was assigned the role of sacrificial goat, though he himself did not suspect it. He was chosen because of his past contacts with communism — his "defection" to the USSR, his "work" with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee,

his trip to Mexico to make contact with the Cuban and USSR embassies. At first the plan was to organize a trip to Cuba for Oswald just before the assassination in order to make the "communist conspiracy" more convincing. However, due to the vigilance of Soviet and Cuban security organs, Oswald was not allowed entry to Cuba.

Oswald participated in the conspiracy against Kennedy, but he did not shoot at him.

Garrison was not able to establish what Oswald's role in the conspiracy was, but he was able to show that others, not Oswald, fired the shots.

How the President was killed.

Seven people took an active part in the assassination. They were Cuban counter-revolutionaries and Americans from the ranks of semi-legal, armed "ultra" groups. They fired from three points, including the window of the schoolbook depository where Oswald worked. Three snipers fired. Beside them were three assistants whose job it was to pick up the spent cartridges which, along with the guns, were hidden in a van which was driven away hours later from a side street leading off the Dealey Plaza. As is known, once the Dallas police caught Oswald, they stopped looking for anyone or anything else. The seventh member of the ambush, dressed in green combat fatigues, had the job of creating a diversion. A few seconds before the motorcade arrived at the ambush point, he

shrieked wildly and fell to the ground, simulating an attack of epilepsy, thus attracting attention to himself and away from the snipers who were in position. The coordination between the seven was precise because they kept in contact by radio.

Two of the seven were picked up by police following the assassination but were released almost immediately, after which they disappeared from view. Their whereabouts are unknown, though Garrison has their names.

Why was John Kennedy killed and who organised the plot?

The seven killers were controlled by Clay Shaw through David Ferrie and others. He did so with the knowledge and blessing of the CIA and was financed by a number of incredibly rich oil magnates who stayed in the background and were well screened. President Kennedy, Garrison maintained, was killed for only one reason: he wanted to alter the course of America's foreign policy and to normalise relations with the Soviet Union and Cuba. The conspirators, including the CIA, intended to resort to the most extreme measures in order to thwart such a possibility. In Garrison's opinion, Lyndon Johnson was aware of the background to the assassination, of the true identity of the killers, but played no active role in the conspiracy.

Such is Jim Garrison's story. Why then, if he had the necessary proof, did the District Attorney lose his case against Clay Shaw, who was found not guilty? The answer to this reasonable question is not as complex as one might think.

In the first place, with the assassination of Robert Kennedy, the support which he lent to the investigation, ended. That such support was extended, there is no doubt. It is known for instance, that a few weeks before his death Robert Kennedy sent Garrison a letter in which he expressed his conviction that there had been a plot and that Garrison was on the right track. In the same letter Robert Kennedy promised that if he were elected President, the conspiracy would be exposed and the real-plotters would be punished.

It was much harder for Garrison to proceed without the support of the Kennedy clan. Shortly after the death of his second brother, Edward Kennedy publicly disassociated himself from the Garrison inquiry. Who could blame him? What was the point of making a target of yourself prematurely?

Secondly, and this is the main point, at the beginning of the Clay Shaw trial in 1969, a considerable part of Garrison's file on the case, including concrete evidence, was stolen. Jim Garrison described the situation in the following somewhat guarded terms, to Henry Borovik, Soviet APN correspondent in the United States:

I understand now, looking back, how naive I was two years ago. I had no idea how powerful the CIA was in this country.

We were short-handed. That is why, when people came in and offered their services, we carried out only the most superficial inquiries and if they appeared honest, we availed ourselves of their help. Imagine for yourself — a man comes in and says he's a journalist and even shows us his published, signed articles in various magazines and says: you don't have to tell me anything, you don't have to show me anything, I simply want to help. Well, why not?

We didn't notice right away that these people had connections with each other. To be honest, I was the last one to realize it, because I'm used to trusting people. Afterwards we discovered that the information they provided led off on a tangent. They confused the investigation. They provided false clues and false witnesses.

Besides me, there are only three investigators working in my office. We couldn't tear ourselves into bits. We were given a written statement from a man who was supposed to be living at a certain address, who had a telephone, his name was in the directory, he even had a paid telephone bill in his name. Then it turned out the address and the bill and everything was phony. I somehow never thought then that it was nothing for the CIA to provide their agent with a false telephone bill.

All kinds of people got into the office. One of them must have been a pretty high-ranking agent. Probably he was in charge of the whole operation directed against our investigation. We exposed him a few hours after he began to destroy our files and almost succeeded. The rest of them melted away with him, so they must have been connected. Of course, it's flattering that one of the most powerful agencies in the world — the CIA — was so scared of me, but it's small comfort. Over two years they managed to make off with almost all our files. (Retranslated from the Russian — Tr.)

Now it is clear why Garrison was not simply removed, like scores of others who knew too much about the murder in Dallas. It was much more effective to deprive him of the evidence and destroy his case. That is why the District Attorney hardly bothered to appear in court and the reporters were quite right in concluding that he had lost interest in the Clay Shaw trial.

Now all that remains is to discuss one more outcome of the Garrison investigation, one that is preferably forgotten in America. So, to repeat the question posed at the beginning of this chapter: is the New Orleans District Attorney the Don Quixote of the 20th century?

It would seem so. Jim Garrison's Don Quixotism consisted in the fact that he sincerely believed in the existence of a democracy in his country which would permit

him, according to the letter of the law, to do what he considered essential. That was his biggest mistake. He had the support of powerful forces, he had the support of the general public. But all this was not enough because his opponents held the reins of political power and by their actions they clearly demonstrated that for them — the masters of America — no laws existed, none of the "democratic traditions and principles" of which American propagandists like to boast so much.

It seems that Garrison himself realised this. In any case, this is what he himself wrote:

"What worries me deeply, and I have seen it exemplified in this case, is that we in America are in great danger of slowly evolving into a proto-fascist state. It will be a different kind of fascist state from the one the Germans evolved: theirs grew out of depression and promised bread and work, while ours, curiously enough, seems to be emerging from prosperity. But in the final analysis, it's based on power and on the inability to put human goals and human conscience above the dictates of the state. Its origins can be traced in the tremendous war machine we've built since 1945, the 'military-industrial complex' that Eisenhower variously warned us about, which now dominates every aspect of our life. The power of the States and Congress has gradually been abandoned to the executive de-

partment, because of war conditions: and we've seen the creation of an arrogant, swollen bureaucratic complex totally unfettered by the check and balances of the constitution.

"In a very real and terrifying sense, our government is the CIA and the Pentagon, with Congress reduced to a debating society. Of course, you can't spot this trend to fascism by casually looking around. You can't look for such familiar signs as the swastika, because they won't be there. We won't build Dachaus and Auschwitzes: the clever manipulation of the mass media is creating a concentration camp of the mind that promises to be far more effective in keeping the populace in line.

"We're not going to wake up one morning and suddenly find ourselves in gray uniforms goose-stepping off to work. But this isn't the test. The test is: what happens to the individual who *dissents*? In Nazi Germany, he was physically destroyed: here the process is more subtle, but the end results can be the same. I've learned enough about the machinations of the CIA in the past year to know that this is no longer the dreamworld America I once believed in."

So this, it seems, is what life taught Jim Garrison in the course of the road he trod.

Who? How? Why?

On March 31, 1968, Lyndon Johnson made his famous TV

appearance announcing that he would not seek re-election and would not accept the Presidential nomination at the forthcoming Democratic Party Convention. The *US News & World Report* was one of those that risked naming one of the most important reasons for Johnson's decision. It was a case of the President being squeezed out of the White House by his own party, the magazine stated, and quoted a close friend of the President as saying that you can't remain in office when people call you an assassin and when rioting crowds take to the streets.

Yes, in the spring of 1968, thousands of Americans openly referred to their President in similar terms. Things came to such a pass that even among the political elite of Washington, among Senators and congressmen stories like the following circulated:

"What was Lyndon Johnson doing 45 seconds before the shots in Dallas were fired?"

The question was followed by the speaker plugging both his ears with his fingers.

As a matter of fact, this joke was related even to foreigners, Soviet people included. This was not just another nasty joke invented by Johnson's political opponents, as we shall see. There are some facts behind the story.

It goes without saying that it is an exceedingly serious matter when society accuses the leader of

its country of being involved in murder, and an incumbent leader at that. The suspicion could not settle merely as a result of intrigues, without at least some foundation. In 1966, two out of 100 questioned in a poll conducted by the Louis Harris Institute of Public Opinion, stated that Lyndon Johnson was behind the assassination in Dallas. Judging by thinly veiled accusations in the press and several other factors, in the spring of 1968 this percentage had increased significantly. I say "judging by" because a similar poll was not conducted in 1968 or if it was, the results were not made public.

Nevertheless, it seems to me that objectivity and justice demand from all who attempt to explore the origin of the assassination, to ask a very precise question: Did the former Vice-President know in advance what was supposed to happen on November 22, 1963? Or did the conspirators, aware that Johnson had plenty of personal reasons to wish Kennedy out of the way, decide not to burden the conscience of the future President with such information? The answers to these questions are extremely important. Is anything known about this side of the story?

Some things are known. On November 24, 1963, several White House reporters learned the following: as the Presidential motorcade moved through the streets of Dallas, Johnson told his Secret Service guard who was

sitting in the front seat, to switch on the car radio. The Vice-President listened attentively to the local radio station, paying no attention to the throngs of well-wishers. The incident was remembered, but at the time, along with others, was not thought important.

But two years later, witnesses who were present in the car with Johnson (Senator Yarborough and Secret Service guard) began to talk. Johnson ordered the car radio turned on a few blocks before the murder site. All the way along the route he looked not only grim, but extremely tense. The Vice-President listened to the radio which he requested be turned up full volume and which drowned out the roar on the street. Nevertheless, Johnson immediately recognized the first shot for what it was. The same second, Secret Service guard Rufus Youngblood yelled: "Get down!", hurled himself over the seat and covered Johnson with his body. Youngblood, according to his own words was not absolutely sure that he had heard a gunshot. He had time for the thought that if he were wrong it would be rather embarrassing.

William Manchester emphasizes Johnson's absolute conviction as to the nature of the explosion he had heard and the Secret Service guard's uncertainty, a man whose profession should make him quite familiar with the sound of gunfire. Such are the known facts. What do they signify? Well, as they say

in America, "Your guess is as good as mine."

When John Kennedy was already President, a limrick went the rounds which in an amusing and risqué fashion suggested that Johnson was in the pay of the "fat cats" of Texas — the billionaires of Texas, such as Harold Hunt, one of the richest men in the world.

The name of Harold Hunt was barely mentioned in the American press in the first few months following the assassination. Nevertheless, this man obviously played an important role in the conspiracy. Here are the facts.

July, 1960. The Democratic Party Convention in Los Angeles. Harold Hunt established himself in a hotel not far from Johnson's headquarters. He kept his favourite posted daily with memoranda and advice as to how to ensure the Presidential nomination. Then, when this proved impossible, Hunt complained to friends: "If Lyndon had just strictly followed my advice, Kennedy would never have made it. And it so happens I'm the man who told Johnson to agree to second place on the ticket once it became clear Kennedy had won."

Autumn, 1961. The American journalist, Al Burke, is a guest at the Hunt estate. In his presence the oil king hurls abuse at Kennedy for his policies, which in Hunt's opinion are directed above all, at destroying his, Hunt's oil empire. Already then the magnate suggests the physical removal of

Kennedy from the scene. "There is no other way to get rid of the traitors who have taken over our government," Burke writes down Hunt's words in his notebook. "They should all be shot."

November 14, 1963. In a back room of Jack Ruby's nightclub, a number of people gather — including the owner, the Dallas policeman Jack Tippit (the same one who, according to the Warren Commission was shot by Oswald), and another person whose name was not mentioned in the Report. The American press later reported that Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court and Chairman of the Commission, in questioning Ruby called the unidentified person a "wealthy oil man". Interestingly enough, Warren has not denied the allegation.

November 22, 1963. The *Dallas Morning News* comes out with the widely-known advertisement, bordered in black like an announcement of mourning and sarcastically headed: "Welcome Mr. Kennedy to Dallas." Ted Dealey, Birchite publisher of the *News* was one of H.L. Hunt's closest friends. Later the Warren Commission established that the advertisement had been paid for by three Texas businessmen, one of whom was Nelson Bunker Hunt, son of Harold Hunt.

On the morning of the same day Jack Ruby showed up in Ted Dealey's office and they talked privately. Several days before the assassination Ruby was seen in

the office of another son of H. L. Hunt — Lamar. Here too, Ruby spent a long time in private conversation.

In all the above incidents, only once — in reference to the meeting in the back room of Ruby's nightclub — does the name "Hunt" not openly figure. However, the authorities demonstrated quite clearly that they knew exactly who the "wealthy oil man" was. A few hours after the killings, on the evening of November 22, FBI agents arrived at the Hunt estate. They did not come to arrest him — such things simply don't happen to billionaires in America. They had come to warn him: it was not safe for him to remain in Dallas since many people associated his name with the murder. That same night the oil magnate was secretly transported to Baltimore where he quietly remained for several weeks until passions died down. And all this time he was guarded by local police and FBI agents!

Today the most well-founded and documented version of the assassination of John Kennedy is that of Jim Garrison. This is so if only because the investigation of New Orleans' Don Quixote evoked such rabid and scandalously illegal counteraction on the part of Lyndon Johnson's Administration. The facts were there for America and the world to see and can hardly be discounted.

And so, the "fat cat", the ex-

politician from Texas and the CIA, all of them, to a greater or lesser degree, have been exposed, both through their own actions and through eyewitness accounts. And all of them, as is not hard to spot, can easily be brought down to one common political denominator — oil.

It is possible that history will add further names to the sinister list of conspirators.

John Kennedy lost his political game, the stake in which turned out to be his own life.

Why did he lose? Why were such extreme measures resorted to?

On January 20, 1964, when the new President took his oath of office in Washington, which is situated on the same latitude as Ankara, the temperature was 20 degrees below zero and that night a vicious blizzard swept over the city. In the National press club, beside a blazing log fire, Republican supporters among the reporters gloomily traded wise cracks: "Even nature is protesting against the White House being taken over by that nice, smooth young man with dangerous ideas."

That day, in his first official Presidential speech, the young man had spoken somewhat unusually, if his speech were to be compared to those made by his postwar predecessors, beginning with Harry Truman.

The most interesting and unusual thought in that speech touched on internal matters: "If the free society cannot help the

many who are poor, it can never save the few who are rich." Further, obviously addressing himself to those "who are rich", Kennedy appealed: "And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

These two sentences contain all of John Kennedy's philosophy, his mission in life, the reason for which he fought to become President of the United States. This mission could be defined even more briefly, in three words: to save capitalism.

Walter Lippmann, the well-known American columnist, gave an interview in May 1964 to a West German weekly *Der Spiegel*. He was a thousand times right when he pointed out that many Europeans not only idealized Kennedy, but had formed an erroneous conception of the man. He had been before his death the darling of the left, but he himself was not liberal, he was a conservative.

The West German interviewer hastened to agree with Lippmann and added that this was particularly so as regarded internal policy.

Yes, above all in internal policy questions. In foreign policy this tendency was revealed much later — in the third and final year of his Presidency. And it showed itself of necessity in connection with internal problems and the main goal — to save the US system.

In order to explain this, one must understand the changes which have taken place in the structure of American society and which first became evident sometime in the early 1950s. At that time very few defenders of imperialism (Kennedy was one of them) saw the potential threat posed by those changes. I am referring to the population explosion in the United States. In 1940 there were 132,600,000 Americans. By 1960 the figure had risen to 180,700,000. In 1970 the population was over 200,000,000.

However, only two age categories have climbed sharply: those under 18 and those over 50. The number of able-bodied Americans, in other words, producers of material wealth, has of course also grown, but in comparison with non-wage-earners, very little. This is creating serious social problems: the aged and the young have to be fed, schooled and given medical attention. But American capitalism does not wish to expend a greater share of its profits for this purpose. Even the present share is given up grudgingly, only under pressure of class struggles. And also because a new world system of socialism has appeared and thrived in the world, where schooling and medicine and much else is provided free of charge to the people.

Nevertheless, the masters of America did not wish to increase the allotments for social needs. And then, at first here and there and politically not very notice-

able, crises began to arise — in education (a shortage of schools and teachers), in medical services and among the aged. The working sections of the population could no longer provide, on their wages, support and security to the ever increasing number of non-working members of society.

In its historical blindness, American imperialism chose another path. It began to improve the situation of only one section of the labouring populace: those engaged in working the new post-war "gold vein" — armaments production, particularly in the nuclear-rocket field. In actual fact, as far as Marxists were concerned, American imperialism had not invented anything new. That path of development was predicted by Lenin back in 1916 when he wrote *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*:

"The enormous dimensions of finance capital concentrated in a few hands and creating an extraordinarily dense and widespread network of relationships and connections which subordinates not only the small and medium, but also the very small capitalists and small masters, on the one hand, and the increasingly intense struggle waged against other national state groups of financiers for the division of the world and domination over other countries, on the other hand, cause the perpetuated classes to go over entirely to the side of imperialism. 'General' enthusiasm over the prospects of imperialism, furious

defence of it and painting it in the brightest colours — such are the signs of the times. Imperialist ideology also penetrates the working class. No Chinese Wall separates it from the other classes."

American capitalists have made an art out of the practice of corrupting significant sections of the working people and making them share the capitalist viewpoint.

One of the most complex aspects of the process of social corruption is intended to direct the enormous native energy of the average American away from his class interests and toward personal aggrandisement. Contemporary American society simply cannot be understood if individualism as a moving force is ignored. "Every man for himself and may the best win." Anyone who has seen the film *It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World* can say he has seen the mainspring of American society in action (naturally putting aside the exaggerations of the comedy element).

In order to allow wider sections of the American working people than in the past to "participate" in the interests of the bourgeoisie, a material base is required. This has been provided in the past decade by the scientific-technological progress of the United States and by the huge profits extracted from the wholesale grabbing and exploitation of the natural resources of other countries. For instance, in the years 1950-64, American companies

transferred 5,975 million dollars in profits to the USA from Venezuela alone. The geography of exploitation and impoverishment of whole nations is not limited to Latin America...

In addition to the two "eternal" sources of profit-making, a third was added after the Second World War — the arms race in conditions of cold war. Over the past 20-odd years, a huge military-industrial complex has been created in America. The world press hardly allows a day to go by without some story on the subject. The more far-seeing sections of the American bourgeoisie (out of self-interest) are now trying to limit the allembracing influence and power of this complex. How successfully American imperialism has bent the country to its will can be judged by two statistics: every fifth person in America earns his living from funds allotted to the arms race; over 100,000 American companies are working for the Pentagon.

However, instead of liquidating the danger of social upheavals, such "common cause with the interests of imperialism" has only hastened their onset. After all, wide sections of the working people have remained outside the "cold war prosperity". And slowly but surely this has led and will lead to situations promising social unrest which could rock America to its foundations. The first rumblings of such eruptions have already been heard. Back in 1960 they could only be guessed at.

That is why Kennedy appealed to his class brethren — give a little in order not to lose all. On one occasion the new President called his policy "a strategy of survival".

The President began with a decision to shake up the oil producers. It must be said that the personal business interests of the Kennedy clan and of the whole Boston financial grouping not only would not have suffered as a result, but would have gained. The "Bostonians", as did the rest of America, had to pay a high price for their oil products.

Once in power, John Kennedy wasted no time in worming the oil industry out of the grasp of the Department of the Interior where from generation to generation oil affairs had been handled by trusted and loyal henchmen of the Texas "fat cats". A special Presidential Assistant, Myer Feldman, was put in charge of the oil and gas resources. Under his overall leadership a re-established interdepartmental commission began to work on a new bill which would regulate oil production and taxes levelled on the industry. The prepared draft was published in July 1963. Its essence came down to one thing: if the bill was passed, the profits of the oil companies would be slashed by three-and-a-half billion dollars annually!

This was an open challenge to the oil magnates. Naturally, they counterattacked, and did their best to delay the bill's progress. When in October 1963 the press

reported that in the near future the President intended to place before Congress a bill that would repeal the oil depletion allowance and introduce other new rules into the exploitation of oil resources, the magnates undertook their final open demarche: they requested an audience with the President. On November 8, two weeks before the assassination, the presidents of the three biggest American oil conglomerates met with Kennedy for half an hour. The next day Texas newspapers reported that the oil men were "disappointed" with the outcome.

Exactly two weeks after assuming the Presidency, Lyndon Johnson returned oil affairs to the Department of the Interior. Myer Feldman was out of a job. In the Walker Lippmann interview already mentioned, the columnist also declared that Kennedy had divided the country, whereas Johnson was like a well-worn slipper — very comfortable.

John Kennedy's second attempt to restrain the moneybags in their inordinate greed became known as the "steel crisis". At the beginning of April 1962, the steelworkers trade union — one of the biggest in the country — came to an agreement with the steel companies after long and difficult talks in which the then Secretary of Labour, Arthur Goldberg, participated. It was agreed that steel prices would not be raised. Literally within a few days, the president of the major steel monopoly — US Steel — Roger Blough, placed

on Kennedy's desk a four-page memorandum which announced US Steel's decision to raise steel prices \$6.00 a ton. While Blough was still inside the White House, reporters were handed copies of the memorandum.

Such a move almost automatically entailed price increases on many goods — both industrial and consumer. (Major strikes were in the air and consequently the heating up of the social temperature which the President so feared. Kennedy was enraged by the contemptuous lack of respect for himself and the post he occupied shown by the steel magnates who did not wish to look beyond their own narrow interests. Among his own friends the President said: "My father always told me that all businessmen were sons of bitches, but I never believed it till now." This sentiment got into print and for a long time under various guises the papers kept repeating that "Kennedy was against business". Kennedy did not only talk, he acted. He gave orders to the Pentagon to cancel military contracts made with companies that had raised prices. The steel magnates began to back down. Kennedy's entourage exulted, considering that the President had won the "steel crisis". In fact, he had won only a battle, not the war.

By this actions during the steel dispute, Kennedy had seriously alarmed considerable sections of the business world in the United States. No postwar President

had even dared to threaten to take away military contracts from such important companies, much less thought of actually doing so. Incomprehension of the "Boston Pup" and mistrust of his policies visibly intensified.

In the fall of that same year of 1962, America lived through the Caribbean missile crisis. This provided a severe mental shake-up for millions and millions of Americans. For the first time in all my years in the United States, I saw empty shelves in grocery stores — the result of panic-buying.

A group of government leaders, including Kennedy, had peered into the abyss of Hell, as newspapers wrote at the time. After that Kennedy began to understand certain home truths about the nuclear age. He realised, for instance, that in order to save the country from nuclear catastrophe, whether as a result of calculation or of inertia arising from the uncontrolled nuclear-rocket arms race, the two opposing social systems absolutely must enter into talks with the aim of liquidating the danger of frontal confrontations.

The American press was practically unanimous in its view: President Kennedy's attempts to seek ways of easing world tensions and above all of normalising American-Soviet relations, were dictated precisely by the lessons learned in the fall of 1962.

However, a wall arose before Kennedy's intentions. Every single ultra-right organisation in the

United States, and what is more important, the military-industrial complex, was vehemently opposed to a détente which inescapably would lead to a deceleration of the arms race and consequently a decrease in profits.

The pressure was unrelenting. It shackled Kennedy's actions, in most cases rendering them impossible or fruitless. Recall the storm of opposition raised in the United States against the limited nuclear test ban treaty.

In this situation John Kennedy took an impermissible step, according to all former American concepts. (Before him, only Franklin Roosevelt had done the same thing.) The President addressed himself directly to the American people, wishing to ensure their support in putting pressure on the military-industrial complex. That was the essence of John Kennedy's speech at the American University in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 1963. Kennedy called on Americans to re-examine attitudes to the cold war and to the Soviet Union.

He said: "Today, should total war break out again — no matter how — our two countries will be the primary targets. It is an ironic but accurate fact that the two strongest Powers are the two in the most danger of devastation. All we have built, all we have worked for, would be destroyed... We are both caught up in a vicious and dangerous cycle, with suspicion on one side breeding suspicion

on the other, and new weapons begetting counter-weapons.

"In short, both the United States and its allies, and the Soviet Union and its allies, have a mutually deep interest in a just and genuine peace and in halting the arms race."

It is my deep conviction that that speech was the last drop that filled the cup to overflowing and decided his fate.

John Kennedy wanted to save American capitalism. He intended to manoeuvre a bit, to strengthen the rear, to plaster over the cracks that had appeared in the social fabric, in the hope that after such minor repairs, imperialism, having gathered its forces, would once more be able to renew its onslaught, open and direct, on the world of socialism. However, the 35th President was not allowed to do this. That is Kennedy's personal tragedy.

He was a misunderstood President...

He was a victim of the historical blindness of the most war-like sections of American imperialism.

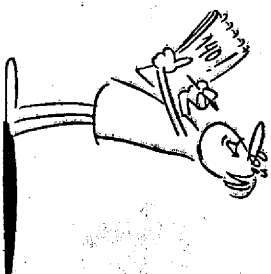
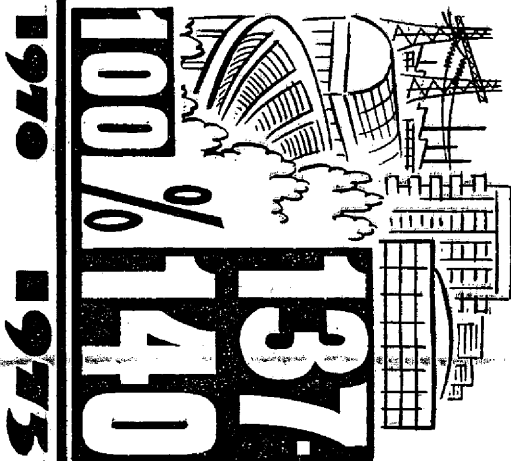
The murder in Dallas reeked so strongly of oil that the stink was smelled by America and the rest world. The sentence on John Kennedy, pronounced by the darkest forces in the country, was executed by the oil magnates through their henchmen.

Even such an outcome satisfied wide circles of American business. They too, had been frightened by Kennedy's activities — all those owners and co-owners of over 100,000 firms fed by the American tax-payers through the intermediary of the Pentagon.

That is the paradox: John Kennedy was removed from the political arena by the very system which he sought not only to strengthen, but to preserve forever.

The 35th President of the United States of America was, perhaps, imperialism's last hope. But his planned operation of rejuvenation on this greatest evil of our time did not take place. It did not take place because the surgeon was cut down in the heart of the festering ulcer — Dallas.

The New Soviet Five-Year Plan



National Income

The total amount of national income over the past five years reaches an enormous sum — 1,166,000 million roubles.

For the sake of comparison: in the five years before the war (1936 to 1940) national income amounted to 154,000 million roubles.

In the current five years national income is, according to the plan, due to rise by 37-40 per cent.

About three-quarters of the national income of the USSR goes on consumption. This includes not only wages but also expenditure on education, health, maintenance of those who are incapacitated, student allowances and benefits — that is, everything which is paid for by the Soviet state.

Diagram: left — national income of the USSR by 1970 (100 per cent); right — its increase by 1975, as envisaged in the Ninth Five-Year Plan.