

F.B.I. AGENT BALKS GARRISON INQUIRY

Invokes Executive Privilege Before Jurors on Plot

NEW ORLEANS, May 17 (AP)—An agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation refused today to answer questions from a grand jury about his role in the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination.

The agent, Regis Kennedy, invoked executive privilege during the hour-long appearance before the grand jury, according to District Attorney Jim Garrison.

Assistant United States Attorney Jack Ciolino said Mr. Kennedy had been ordered by Attorney General Ramsey Clark not to answer questions.

Alvin Oser, one of Mr. Garrison's aides, said the agent was then dismissed from the subpoena.

Mr. Kennedy left the grand jury room as he had entered—smiling.

His appearance was ordered after Criminal District Judge Bernard Bagert ruled this morning that the Justice Department lacked authority to prevent its agents from testifying before the grand jury.

Mr. Kennedy, who is based in New Orleans, was subpoenaed last week. Federal attorneys said a Justice Department executive order forbade F.B.I. agents to disclose information about their official work unless the Attorney General approved.

In ruling for the state, Judge Bagert said the question of privilege must be determined by the courts and not by arbitrary decisions of executives of Federal agencies.

Explanation for "Code"

DALLAS Tex., May 17—A "code" that New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison says connects Clay Shaw with Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby in an assassination conspiracy may be nothing more than the postoffice box number of a bullfight promoter, The Dallas Times Herald said in a copyrighted article today.

It reported that Lee Odom, a 31-year-old promoter, says he is the "Lee Odom, Post Office Box 19106, Dallas, Tex.," that Mr. Garrison cited from Mr. Shaw's address book.

Mr. Shaw, 54, a retired New Orleans businessman, has been indicted on a conspiracy charge and is awaiting trial.

Using a complex decoding system, Mr. Garrison has said the Dallas postoffice box num-

ber translates into Ruby's 1963 Dallas telephone number — Whitehall 1-5601. The number "19106" was found in Oswald's notebook.

Mr. Odom said "19106" was the number of a postoffice box he rented in the summer of 1966. Recalling a trip to New Orleans last November, Mr. Odom said:

"I asked the manager of the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans about who would be good man to see about finding a place for my bullfight. He suggested Mr. Shaw, so the manager called him. He [Shaw] came over to the hotel, as recall, and we talked for 15 or 20 minutes. He gave me his business card and I gave him my address in Dallas. The bullfight didn't come off and we never communicated again. That's all there was to it."

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5-18-67