

Ex-Garrison Aide: Why He Quit

By JACK NELSON
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New Orleans—What prompted investigator William Gurvich to resign as an aide to District Attorney Jim Garrison and blast Garrison's controversial investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy?

The inquiry became "so absurd I figured Garrison had gone completely nuts," Gurvich says.

Actually, Gurvich, who early in the investigation boasted to reporters that Garrison had evidence to substantiate his charges, began talking confidentially with some reporters about the nature of the case more than a month ago. And it was an NBC-TV special correspondent,

Walter Sheridan, who helped persuade him he should publicly tell what he thought about the investigation.

Sheridan, who served as an investigator in the Justice Dept. when Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was Attorney General, first arranged for Gurvich to meet with Kennedy in New York on June 8 to relate his views.

After word of the meeting leaked to the press, Gurvich acknowledged he had met with Kennedy and had told the Senator there was no substance to the investigation.

Gurvich, who on March 1 announced to the world that New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw had been charged with conspiring to murder President Kennedy, Monday resigned from

Garrison's staff and urged the District Attorney to drop the charge against Shaw.

Gurvich now says he was never in favor of arresting Shaw, but when he announced the arrest he firmly declared that other arrests would be forthcoming. Then he assured reporters that Garrison could back up the charges.

Gurvich often has seemed to enjoy the limelight as much as Garrison. Several times during the investigation Gurvich escorted reporters to see where some of Garrison's suspects lived or worked.

Gurvich and Garrison are long-time friends, and Gurvich's private detective agency has done investigative work for the District Attorney's office. When Gurvich resigned Monday, he said he did not want to "grandstand," but merely wanted to relate his views to Garrison.

But after Garrison commented on his resignation by ridiculing his role as an aide, describing him as little more than a chauffeur and a photographer, Gurvich heatedly denounced the District Attorney as irrational and said his investigation had violated the civil rights of several persons, including Shaw. In fact, said Gurvich, he would even be willing to testify

about the civil rights violations before a federal grand jury. "I imagine Bobby could arrange that," he said, smiling broadly as he referred to Sen. Kennedy.

Gurvich told a reporter yesterday that he decided to denounce the investigation after Garrison plucked the name of his latest suspect from a letter written by a Texas woman whose husband had abandoned her and her children. She wanted help in locating him and described him as a man with a scar over his left eye.

"Garrison has always thought that a man with a scar over his left eye was a companion of Lee Harvey Oswald," said Gurvich, "so now this man became his suspect. It was so absurd I figured Garrison had gone completely nuts."

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