

TODAY'S COMPLETE
RACES
LATE SPORTS

SL 10 CENTS NO. 333

FIGURE

DEAD

Admitted He Was Suspect in Plot

STRANGE DEATH in Florida echoes with demand for an investigation; another man asks protection: Page 16.



—Associated Press Wirephoto

DAVID W. FERRIE WAS DEAD IN BED
He was questioned last November on JFK death

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 22 (AP) — David W. Ferrie, a central figure in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's current investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, was found dead in his bed today. He was nude, and a bed sheet was pulled over his head.

Only last Saturday Ferrie had told the New Orleans States-Item that the district attorney was investigating him because "supposedly I have been pegged as the getaway pilot in an elaborate plan to kill Kennedy." Ferrie called Garrison's probe "a big joke."

Police said it was not immediately determined whether Ferrie's death was murder, suicide or resulted from natural causes. They said a quantity of pills was found near the body.

The coroner said death was caused by a ruptured blood vessel in the brain.

However, Coroner Nicholas Chetta said a complete toxicology report was ordered because of a report that Ferrie, about 44, told a friend he was depressed and wanted to end his life.

Garrison said today he had planned to arrest Ferrie next week.

Link to Assassination Claimed

"The apparent suicide of David Ferrie ends the life of a man who, in my judgment, was one of history's most important individuals," Garrison told a news conference.

"Evidence developed by our office had long since confirmed that he was involved in events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy.

"Apparently we waited too long."

"I have no further comment to make about Mr. Ferrie's death or about any other aspects of the case."

Dr. Chetta said a note was found in Ferrie's apartment, cluttered with religious objects. The note read in part: "To leave this life is, for me, a sweet prospect. I find nothing in it that is desirable and on the other hand everything that is loathsome."

There was no sign of violence. Police declined all comment.

Ferrie had told friends recently he was suffering from encephalitis (sleeping sickness).

Detectives questioned a youth who reportedly found the body. He appeared to be about 23, with sandy blond hair combed long, with full sideburns. A policeman said the youth was a friend of

Ferrie and one of his coworkers.

It was learned that the district attorney's office had two men maintaining surveillance of Ferrie's apartment last November.

Ferrie was arrested shortly after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of Kennedy and questioned. He was released

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JFK PLOT FIGURE FOUND DEAD IN BED

(Continued from Page 1)

after the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas.

Ferrie operated a flying service here and was a private investigator.

He said Saturday he and two friends drove to Texas the day of the assassination.

"We went to Houston, Galveston and then back to Alexandria, La.," Ferrie was quoted as saying.

When he returned to New Orleans, he said, he was questioned at length by the district attorney's office.

Ferrie said he was called into the district attorney's office last November and asked about his activities the week Kennedy was shot.

Garrison began his investigation into the assassination last October. He said Saturday he expects to prove a conspiracy was hatched here and that it led to the assassination in Dallas. Arrests will

be made and convictions obtained, Garrison said.

Ferrie said in an interview Saturday that while he was in Texas in 1963, 13 law officers, including Garrison, entered his home and carted off books, photographs and personal belongings.

"They took a substantial amount of my property," he said.

BOOKED AS FUGITIVE

Ferrie said he went to the district attorney's office and was booked as a fugitive from Texas. He said he asked to be interviewed by the FBI. After that interview the FBI questioned him. He was released.

Garrison said his investigation has been seriously impaired by disclosure of the investigation last Friday. As a result, he said, arrests would be months away.

Garrison could not be reached immediately for comment on Ferrie's death.

Pending further investigation, the official police report listed Ferrie's death as unclassified.

When he was brought in for questioning last November, Ferrie said he asked to

see a copy of his interview with the FBI. He said he did not see a copy and was released.

In his questioning last November, Ferrie said, Chief Investigator Louis Lyon told him that the district attorney's office had "positively uncovered a plot in New Orleans to assassinate Kennedy."

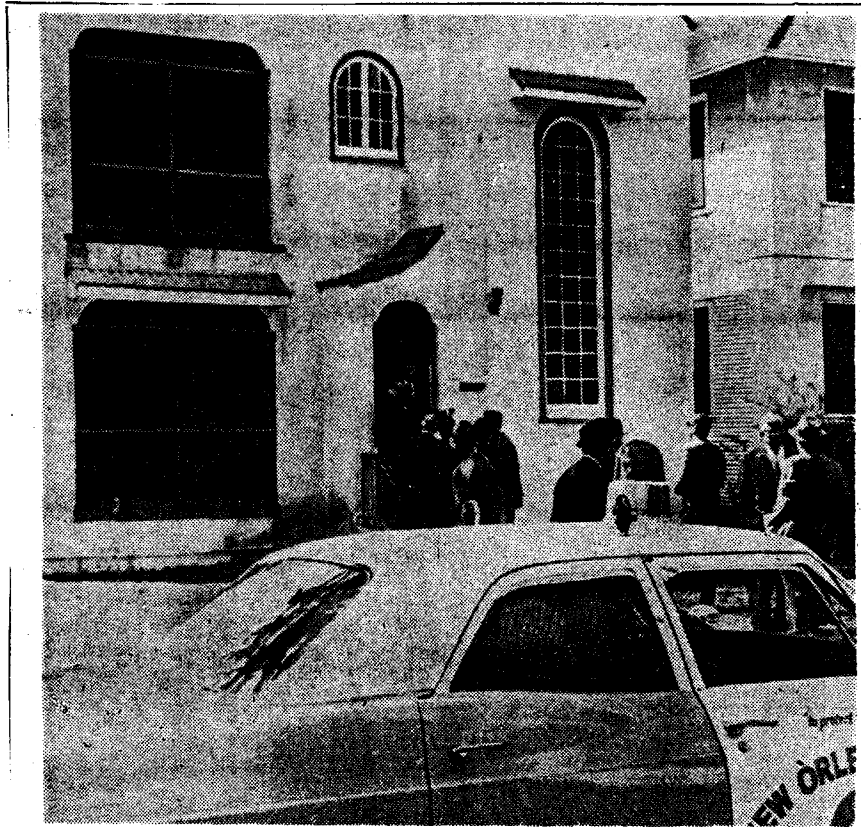
Ferrie said the FBI first became interested in him after a man identified as Ed Voble of New Orleans reported he served with Oswald in a Civil Air Patrol unit commanded by Ferrie.

Actually, Ferrie said, Voble was in the Molsant Squadron and "I was in the Lakefront Squadron." Ferrie said he never knew Oswald, identified by the Warren Commission as the man who shot Kennedy.

Ferrie said he doubted the existence of a conspiracy.

"My assessment of Oswald is that he would be incapable of conspiring because he would be incapable of any interpersonal relationship, especially any thing as delicate as a conspiracy to kill," Ferrie said.

Ferrie is listed in the city directory as a psychologist.



—Associated Press Wirephoto

NEW ORLEANS APARTMENT WHERE DAVID FERRIE WAS FOUND DEAD
Police and press gather at residence of JFK death inquiry figure

Man Says Brother

PENSACOLA, Fla., Feb. 22 (AP) — The county solicitor today began investigating the death of a man who, his brother said, left Dallas following President Kennedy's assassination because he was being constantly questioned by "agents."

The man, Thomas Henry Killam, moved to Pensacola, then Tampa, then back to Pensacola to escape these "agents," the brother said. His wife worked as a

stripper for Jack Ruby, the brother said.

Two days before he was found dead amid the shattered glass of a department store window, March 17, 1964, Killam said, according to his brother:

"I'm a dead man. I've run as far as I'm going to run."

The brother, Earl Killam, asked the solicitor to exhume his brother's body to determine more about the death, which the police listed as an apparent suicide.

"Did you ever hear of a man committing suicide by jumping through a plate glass window?" the brother asked.

Killam's wife was a long-time employe of Ruby in Dallas, the brother said. Killam also worked as a house painter with a man named Jack Carter, who had roomed in a Dallas boarding house once with Lee Harvey Oswald, the brother said.

At 4 a.m. March 17, the

Pensacola News-Journal said, Killam received a phone call at his mother's home. The newspaper quoted the mother as saying that Killam dressed and left the house. She heard a car drive off, the mother said, although Killam did not own a car.

About a half hour later, two street sweepers heard a crash on a downtown street. "They thought it was a trash truck picking up beer and whisky bot-

Victim of JFK Plot

tles," said the police report, signed by Officer S. N. Reeves.

They turned their truck around and saw a man staggering in front of a broken display window, the report said.

They called police. Killam died before he got to a hospital.

The police report said, "because of the presence of blood approximately 4 feet inside the show window, it is my opinion the expired jumped through the window."

The coroner, A. H. Northrup, said his report showed there was only one cut on Killam's body: "a long, 3-inch deep laceration over the lower left side of the neck. Apparently sustained deep laceration in throat when he fell through plate glass window."

The solicitor, Carl Harper, said he took a statement from Earl Killam this morning and would investigate immediately. He said he planned to talk to Dist. Atty. James Garrison of New Orleans.

Harper would not discuss the statement or what his investigation would involve except a rereading of all the reports and a talk with the investigating officers.

Earl Killam said his brother was living with his wife Wanda in Dallas when President Kennedy was killed Nov. 22, 1963.

"Agents" and "plotters" began questioning Thomas Killam about the assassination, Earl Killam said, and Thomas finally moved to Pensacola to live with his mother.

Thomas Killam said the agents traced him to Pensacola, according to his brother, and continued the constant questioning, forcing him to move to Tampa for three months.

The agents followed him, the brother said, and Thomas Killam finally moved back to Pensacola two days before he died.

The brother said Thomas Killam never described the "agents" or "plotters" specifically enough to determine whether he was referring to Federal agents, or police, or to someone else.

Asks Guards

JFK Plot

'Tipster'

Scared

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 22 (UPI)—A one-time private investigator who told Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison he knew of five persons implicated in a plot to kill President Kennedy said Tuesday he feared for his life and wanted police protection.

David F. Lewis, 26, who knew presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963, said the persons involved in the conspiracy were "very vicious and capable of anything. If they're capable of assassinating a United States President, they would not hesitate in getting rid of any of the witnesses."

Lewis, a skinny, dark-haired man who said he relayed his knowledge of the alleged conspiracy to Garrison, now works as a freight agent for a bus line.

He said he met with Oswald several times in New Orleans in the six months before the assassination, but would not divulge what he and Oswald discussed. He said Garrison's investigation into a possible conspiracy concerning the assassination should be taken seriously.

"This investigation definitely is not a hoax on anyone's part. There was a plot. I know about it. And I know the people who were involved."