

NEWS OF THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Probe Mystery Deepens as Charges Fly

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By Howard Jacobs

The late Winston Churchill once said something to the effect that a profound mystery was a puzzle within an enigma within a conundrum. That seemed to be an apt description of the Kennedy assassination probe last week as a welter of charges and sharp contradictions conspired to make the perplexing case even more opaque.

Highlight of the week was the series of accusations levelled at DA Jim Garrison and the investigation itself by William Gurvich, who for months has been referred to as chief aide or chief investigator. The burden of his charges was that he had concluded that the case against accused co-conspirator Clay L. Shaw had no basis in fact, nor did Garrison's theory of a conspiracy hold water.

In formally resigning from participation in the probe last week, Gurvich demanded that the entire case be abandoned as without merit. At his request he appeared before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury to tell his story. After hearing Gurvich and a cavalcade of other Garrison critics, Grand Jury foreman Alvin V. LaBiche said no new evidence had been produced to confirm any of the allegations that have been made to date. LaBiche said he meant that the Grand Jury found no evidence of improper conduct on the part of Garrison or his aides.

The waters were muddied further when hip-talking Dean A. Andrews Jr., under indictment for perjury in the case, belatedly told the press that the shadowy "Clay Bertrand" was not Clay Shaw, as the DA alleges. Instead, said he, Bertrand is in reality Eugene Davis, 42, 704 Iberville. But through his attorney, Davis denied he had ever used the alias of Clay Bertrand. Andrews' indictment stemmed from his refusal to identify the Clay Bertrand he had told the Warren Commission besought his services to defend accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald before Oswald was shot to death by Jack Ruby.

Meanwhile Garrison replied to Gurvich's attack on his case with the assertion that Gurvich had never been his chief investigator, and in fact had played only a minor role in the probe—and that primarily as a photographic expert.