

DA Says No

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New Orleans Site Of Plot To Kill JFK?

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison refused Friday to discuss a published report that he has opened a broad probe to find out if President Kennedy's assassination resulted from a possible plot involving New Orleans.

The States-Item, in a copy-written story, said Garrison's office is spending "out-of-the-ordinary sums of money" on such an investigation.

"The possibility of a well-organized assassination plot in which New Orleans and New Orleans residents were somehow directly involved is said to be at the center of the investigation," the afternoon newspaper said.

Garrison refused to talk with newsmen.

His office first said he would not confirm or deny the States-Item report. Later a spokesman said "there is no basis for the story. Mr. Garrison assumes the story is based on rumor."

Garrison agreed to meet with reporters late in the afternoon, then changed his mind and had his secretary relay word that he had "no comment."

The Warren Commission, which investigated the circumstances surrounding President Kennedy's assassination at Dallas in 1963, said it found no evidence of a plot. The commission's report named Lee Harvey Oswald as the assassin.

Oswald lived in New Orleans the summer before Kennedy was killed. He passed out handbills here for the pro-Castro "Fair Play for Cuba" movement.

The States-Item said assistants and investigators in the District Attorney's Office have spent more than \$8,000 on unexplained travel and investigative expenses since last Nov. 25.

"Most of this money was spent in connection with trips to Dallas, Houston, Miami, Washington, San Francisco and Angola (the Louisiana State Penitentiary) and most of it was spent during January," the newspaper said.

The story said Charles Ray Ward, Garrison's chief assistant, confirmed several weeks ago that the probe was underway. Since then "the investigation apparently has picked up

momentum," the story said.

The States-Item said it had learned that a man arrested here and booked as a fugitive from Texas four days after Kennedy's death was put under surveillance for 24 hours last month. The man was summoned to appear before the grand jury, the story said, but it was not known if he did so.

The article also said a Cuban serving nine years for burglary has been transferred from the Angola Penitentiary to the Orleans Parish Prison at the request of the District Attorney's office.

This man lived just a block from the last New Orleans address of Oswald and reportedly knew Oswald, the article said.

A second Cuban national, living in Miami, was paid money last month by Garrison's office for "investigative expense," the States-Item said.