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SERIALIZATION OF EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK

The Garrison Case

A Study in Abuse of Power

By Milton E. Brenner

Alvin Beauboeuf was not charged with any offense, nor was he ever served with a subpoena. His ordeal was more subtle, but undoubtedly no less painful. He was repeatedly summoned to the D.A.'s office and visited at his home by D.A. investigators. Interviewing Beauboeuf was the special project of two investigators, Lynn Loisel and Louis Ivon.

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About 10 p.m. on March 9, 1967, five days before the start of the Shaw preliminary hearing, Loisel and Ivon appeared at Beauboeuf's home. After a few routine questions they asked Beauboeuf to step outside. Loisel took over the conversation.

"You know, Al, my boss has got unlimited money and we know you know something so we're in a position to do something for you, perhaps pay you \$5,000-\$10,000-\$15,000 and a guaranteed job with an airline," was Loisel's opening pitch. Beauboeuf does recall that Loisel specified that he wanted the truth. Beauboeuf said that he would do anything he could to help.

THE NEXT morning Beauboeuf called his attorney, Hugh Exnicios, whose office is in Jefferson Parish, and described to him the meeting. Exnicios suspected an attempt to buy false information. He called Loisel at the D.A.'s office and asked that the two investigators meet in his, Exnicios's, office. Loisel first refused, but after discussing the matter with Gar-

risson called back and advised that he would be right out.

Exnicios placed a tape recorder behind the curtain in his office which could be activated by a switch under his desk.

Loisel arrived about 2:30 p.m. Exnicios got up from behind his desk and introduced himself to Loisel. "I thought you were coming with your partner," he said as he walked to his seat behind the desk. He then clicked on the recording machine: "What's his name?"

"Ivon?" said Loisel.

"Ivon. He didn't come out with you?" asked the attorney.

"NO. We've got too much to do. Now, let me bring you up to what Al and I were talking about last night. I told him we had liberal expense money and I said the boss is in a position to put him in a job, you know, possibly of his choosing, of Al's choosing. Also, that there would be . . . we would make a hero out of him instead of a villain, you understand. Everything would be to your satisfaction. There's no . . . I mean, we can . . . we can change the story around, you know, enough to positively beyond a shadow of a doubt, you know. . . eliminate him, you know, into any type of conspiracy or what have you.

"The only thing we want is the truth, you know, no . . . no deviations on his part, you know. We want to present the truth. We want the facts and the facts of the assassination. That's what we want.

"And for this, the release, you know, the thing will be typed up in such a way that Al, you know, will be free and clear."

"NOW, in other words," said Exnicios, "what you want him to do, he will come up and give you such evidence that you will be able to couch him in

terms of being a hero:

"That's correct."

"And you'll also . . . you have an unlimited expense account, you said, and you're willing to help him along?"

"I would venture to say . . . well, I'm, you know, fairly certain we could put \$3,000 on him just like that, you know," Loisel snapped his fingers.

Continued Loisel: "I'm sure we would help him financially and I'm sure we . . . real quick we could get him a job."

". . . Now, about the job, what do you mean by that?" Exnicios asked.

"AL SAID he'd like a job with an airline and I feel like the job can be had, you know."

"Well, now, these are tough things to come by. What makes you feel that you would be in a position. . ."

"Well, let's say that. . . well, his connections. For instance, he was talking about a small operation such as Space Air Freight. I know with one phone call he could go out to the Space Air Freight and write his own ticket, you know. That's just Space Air Freight. That's not Eastern or something else.

But I feel like we have people who are stepping stones to the larger airlines and so forth." Added Loisel: "They're politi-

REPEATED CORRECTION

In the installment of THE GARRISON CASE which was published by The Times-Picayune Sunday, October 19, was a typographical error. A correction was published Monday, October 20, but because the error was printed in Sunday editions which have larger circulation than daily editions, The Times-Picayune repeats its correction, with an explicit report of how it occurred, today.

As it was sent by the editorial department to the composing room, the installment published on October 19 contained this statement, "The cross examination, ably

handled by Garrison's friends and attorney, Donald Organ, was often embarrassing." This cross-examination was of criminal court judges who had filed charges of criminal defamation against District Attorney Garrison.

The compositor who put the installment into type made this sentence read, "The cross examination, baly handled by Garrison's friend and attorney . . ."

A proofreader, incorrectly assuming that a letter had been dropped out of "baly" rather than that the "a" and the "b" had been transposed, made the phrase read, "The cross examination, badly handled by Garrison's friend and attorney . . ."

Both the compositor and the proofreader erred. The result was to make it appear that the cross-examination was "badly handled." In the Milton E. Brener book and in the excerpt from that book which was sent to the composing room the phrase was "ably handled." It should have read "ABLY HANDLED" in all editions of The Times-Picayune.

cally motivated, too, you know, like anything else."

"NOW, let me ask you this, Lynn: Is this something you have thought up yourself or that Garrison. . . He knows about the situation?"

"That's right," said Loisel.

" . . . What you think that Al has that he could help you with?"

"We had a man sitting . . . well, first off, I feel . . . Well, we feel that Al is as close to Dave as anybody could have been," explained Garrison's investigator. "All right. Now, we know this a rough . . . I'm drawing you a rough sketch. We have a man who has come forth recently, told us he was sitting in a room with Ferrie, Clay Shaw, two Cubans, and Oswald."

"Where was this meeting, in his home, Ferrie's home?"

"If I'm not . . . if I'm . . . correct me if I'm wrong, I believe it was.

"But anyhow the assass . . . Ferrie said, 'The best way in which the assassination can be done is to get the man . . . to get the President in cross fire,' and went on to discuss that. And then Clay Shaw and Ferrie . . . I believe it was Clay Shaw and

Ferrie, or maybe it was Clay Shaw and Oswald, having a little heated argument. Clay Shaw wanted some of his methods used or his thoughts, you know, used, but anyhow, that's what we have in mind, along that line."

"WAS Al supposed to have been at that meeting?"

"No, Al wasn't at the meeting," explained Loisel patiently.

"Well, how is Al supposed to be able to help you with that meeting?"

"Well, Al is in . . . Al, being as close to Ferrie . . . has to know the whole thing from beginning to end. He has to know it," Loisel was emphatic. Garrison's brand of logic was contagious.

One of a Series

TO READERS: These installments comprise excerpts from the book to which we are limited by our serialization rights. Through necessity, the description of events and the characterizations are not as full as those in the complete book.

"I see. And you're convinced from all the evidence that Al could not be as close as he was to Dave without knowing something in some way?"

"That's right."

"Let me ask you this: Do you think that . . . that . . . of course, if . . . if my client, Beauboeuf, if he knew about this and didn't tell you, he's committing a crime, he's an ac-

cessory after the fact, isn't he?"

"NO, he's not. I tell you how we go about that. Well, Dave Ferrie, bless his poor soul, is gone. Al was scared of Dave. Al has a family, you know. When Al first met Dave, he was a single man. Al has a family now, Al was threatened by Dave, you know, to . . . never to divulge this. Al or his family would be taken care of."

"I see."

"You understand, now that poor Dave is gone Al has voluntarily come forward and told of his knowledge. I mean, there's 99,000 ways we could skin that cat, you know. I mean, it's something you know . . . that's his patriotic duty. He's . . . now he's placing his family, you

know, the safety of his family at the hands . . . at the mercy of the District Attorney's Office because he must clear his conscience and . . . as an upstanding young American."

"All right," said the attorney. "Now let me ask you this, Lynn: Supposing Al in his own consciousness does not know anything and you run him through . . . you said something about hypnosis, you would be willing to take him through any truth serum and polygraph and so forth and so on. I read his statement. There's nothing in his statement that indicates that Al consciously knows or willingly told anything about the conspiracy of Dave Ferrie's or certainly didn't even know Clay Shaw. Now, how can that be changed?"

"When was the statement made?" interrupted Loisel.

IT WAS agreed that the statement was made in late 1966. "Ferrie was living, wasn't he?" continued the investigator.

"Yeah . . . oh, I see," said Exnicios.

"Well, have you any real . . . let me ask you this: Besides your personal opinion, have you anything really on Al Beauboeuf that he knows anything we might clear up?" asked Exnicios.

"Umm, no. Really the only thing we're doing or have been trying to do is to have Al tell us."

"Well, he's already been up there the one time. Now, what more do you want now?"

"We don't believe him," said Loisel, "let's put it that way."

EXNICIOS again turned to Loisel with the crucial question: "Supposing we agree to this and it's all drawn down and after you run Al Beauboeuf through the three deals, it comes out he knows nothing about the whole thing, what . . . what then? Will you still give him the money and still give him the position?"

"No. That's not the deal."

"WHAT IS the deal?"

"The deal is that Al fills in the missing links."

"Well, supposing he doesn't know what . . . who are the other assassins?"

"Well, he can't fill in the missing links if . . . if he doesn't know. And that is what the deal is predicated on."

"That he knows?" asked Exnicios.

Both men laughed. "Oh,

yeah," said Loisel.

"Oh boy," said Exnicios, still laughing, "you better let me get to talk to him some more in order to find out if we can. . . He told me, and I'll be frank with you, that he knows nothing at all about the assassination, same thing he told you and told the D. A.'s Office early in November, and now this is going to have to change his story. If he does, in fact, feel that he knows something about it, perhaps he will then say all right."

WHAT THEY wanted, explained Loisel was "the places, the times, you know, and what have you." If after talking to Beauboeuf it appeared to Exnicios that Beauboeuf did have the information, then he, Loisel, was going to ask a few questions just to satisfy his own curiosity, questions that "only a man in his (Beauboeuf's) position could know." Loisel would have to know the answers, of course, before "the deal is clinched."

If Loisel satisfied himself that Beauboeuf knew what he was talking about, then they would go right into the boss's office and "the man himself" would sit down.

"You're talking about Garrison?" asked Exnicios.

Loisel assured that he was and, further, that any type of contract would be agreeable.

Loisel was asked to step outside for a few minutes while Exnicios spoke privately to his client. The plan decided on was to bargain. If Beauboeuf submitted and if the information he

possessed did not suffice, then would the D.A. just go along with the job with the airline?

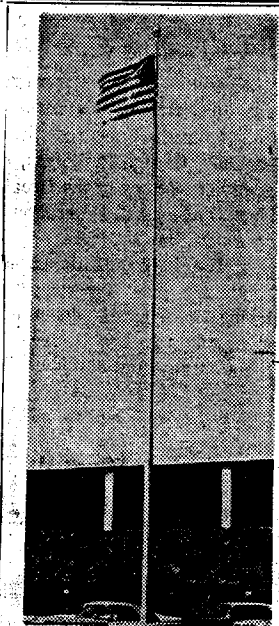
"NO, but it's not what we're looking for," said the investigator.

"But suppose the facts are that Al doesn't know anything," persisted Exnicios. "Suppose that there was a conspiracy, but that Al knew nothing about it? You can't accept that?" asked Exnicios.

"Right. Our investigation has led to Al himself, you know, and we just feel like he has to know." After more conversation, it was finally agreed that Loisel would speak to Garrison.

Nonetheless, Loisel decided to throw out a few hints. He

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—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
FLAG OF THE DAY

Flying high over the new office building of Avondale Shipyards is Old Glory. Another of a series showing the flag on display in the New Orleans area.

didn't want any answers at the time from Beauboeuf, but there were "a few things that don't add up."

Continued Loisel: "Number 1, after the assassination, they went to a skating rink. Now, we interviewed this man at the skating rink. Dave didn't skate and the man said, 'You know, this man didn't come up here, you know for. . . he came up here for only one reason. And that was when everything. . . you know, at the proper time, Dave Ferrie said, 'I'm Dave Ferrie from New Orleans! I want you all to know I'm here,' in a loud voice.'"

LOISEL then described Ferrie's flight to Hammond the night he was being sought by the D.A.'s investigators. "There's just too many things," said Loisel.

Also, Loisel mentioned an informer who had been a friend of Ferrie's.

LOISEL left. Exnicios was now in possession of a tape which he strongly felt to be an offer of money and a job for false information.

It was not long before word got back to Garrison's office.

When he appeared in the D.A.'s office on the morning of April 12 Beauboeuf was assured that the offer to exchange information for money was not considered a bribe and was not in violation of any law.

BEAUBOEUF states he was told he would be required to sign an affidavit to the effect that he did not understand the conversation to be a bribe. He read the statement that was presented to him, but he decided that it appeared too damaging to him. Certain changes were made and the statement was signed.

Approximately a month later, Beauboeuf was to tell the police he did not consider the statement to be true, but was forced to sign because of blackmail and threats.