

3, OCTOBER 23, 1969

SERIALIZATION OF EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK

The Garrison Case

A Study in Abuse of Power

By Milton E. Brener

THE TIMES-PICAYUNE

VERY EARLY, in his probe, Garrison became convinced of the involvement in the assassination plot of Cuban exiles interested in the overthrow of Castro.

On December 28th, 1966, a newsman friendly to Garrison was introduced to Carlos Quiroga at the Moisant Airport as Quiroga and his friend, Carlos Bringuier, awaited the landing of certain Cuban Americans recently arrived in this country via Miami.

On Jan. 20, Quiroga was subpoenaed to appear in Garrison's office. Garrison was **8** now armed with a revised Code of Criminal Procedure effective Jan. 1, 1967, which permitted him to subpoena witnesses to his office rather than to the Grand Jury, and to compel their testimony to Garrison privately. Quiroga was one of the first to be so subpoenaed. He brought with him a scrapbook on the

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.

Crusade to Free Cuba, the organization which had disbanded in February, 1962. Quiroga, unlike Dean Andrews, did not know Garrison, arrived on time, and consequently was obliged to wait in one of the outer offices approximately four hours.

Finally, after being searched for weapons, Quiroga was ushered into the office of Jim Garrison. Without Quiroga's knowledge, the conversation between him and Garrison was recorded and transcribed. Garrison asked Quiroga about Oswald's pres-

ence in the camp across the lake. Quiroga replied that Oswald had no connection whatever with the camp across the lake. Garrison became angry and demanded the truth on pain of subpoena before the Grand Jury. He announced that his office had discovered that Lee Harvey Oswald was not at all a Marxist but was a dedicated anti-Castroite. Quiroga found this ludicrous and so told the D.A.

On Jan. 24 an investigator called and asked Quiroga again to come into the office. Garrison now confided in Quiroga, among other things, that he had proof that Manuel Garcia Gonzales, the true assassin, was in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

QUIROGA told Garrison that he should investigate the people who were giving him this completely false information.

THE INVESTIGATION was by no means limited to interrogation of witnesses in New Orleans. Beginning in early January an intensive systematic operation was instituted. Assistants and investigators were sent far and wide to run down all possible leads.

Meanwhile, Ferrie was becoming increasingly beset by rumors of impending arrest.

On Feb. 5 arrangements were made with a resident across the street from Ferrie's Louisiana Avenue Parkway upper apartment to conduct a continuous surveillance. His acquaintances and former acquaintances were besieged for information. Garrison was patient. Sooner or later Ferrie would break and tell the true story.

ON FEB. 17, 1967, the story of the Garrison probe broke with large headlines in the local press.

Garrison broke his silence the following day. He claimed that the premature publicity had hurt his probe and that the lives of his witnesses were now endangered. Both reporters who

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authored the copyrighted story of the 17th, however, claimed that Garrison was shown the story in advance and told of its imminent publication. Garrison termed them liars. Garrison assured his public, however, that not only was he in fact conducting an investigation, but that there would be arrests and convictions.

GARRISON had become increasingly convinced of massive attempts by the F.B.I. and other components of the federal apparatus to monitor his office. He was, and remains, suspicious that telephone taps and other forms of bugs are everywhere. He needed someone proficient in bugging and antibug-

ging equipment to assist.

He turned to Willard Robertson, a businessman. He did, indeed, know a man who was an electronics expert who specialized in bugging and anti-bugging equipment.

On Feb. 21 Robertson introduced him to Garrison and the two men struck up a friendship that was to come to an abrupt end a month later. The name of the electronics expert was Gordon Novel.

Garrison spoke to Novel that day at length. He quickly learned to his delight that Novel

had been quite close to Garrison's No. 1 suspect, David Ferrie.

Some way had to be found to break down the preposterous story of the ice skating and hunting trip to Texas following the assassination.

IN THE weeks that followed, Novel was a ready and apparently limitless source of information. Very little that Garrison required by way of information could not be furnished by Novel in short order. Novel's fertile imagination worked overtime, supplying Garrison with many of the details he requested and, to compound the charade, Novel was in contact with the mischievous Andrews, who had once done legal work for him.

Garrison was to have the last laugh, however. Both men, Novel and Andrews, were later to become targets of the D.A.'s wrath and would pay heavily

for their short period of merriment at Garrison's expense.

On the night of Feb. 21 Ferrie sat alone in his room staring into space as he had done on many other occasions. Later he was interviewed by George Lardner, a columnist for the Washington Post, who arrived about midnight. The columnist remained until about 4:00 a.m. Sometime later that morning the tormented Ferrie found

peace.

GARRISON immediately pegged the death as suicide: "The apparent suicide of David Ferrie ends the life of a man who, in my judgment, was one of history's most important individuals."

Said the D.A.: "Evidence developed by our office has long since confirmed he was involved in events culminating in the as-

sassination of President Kennedy."

Several of Garrison's assistants suggested that it might be the better part of discretion to now announce his regret at the death of Ferrie and to explain that the investigation had centered around this eccentric and, further, that while Garrison had expected to establish his involvement in the assassination, that his sudden death was, at

least temporarily, impeding any further progress in the probe. It was further suggested to Garrison that he might now let the matter die quietly while he was ahead. Garrison agreed. As usual, his resolve lasted until his next exposure to the press.

NEXT — Garrison reports that the assassination plot—or plots—are solved and all the plotters will be arrested.