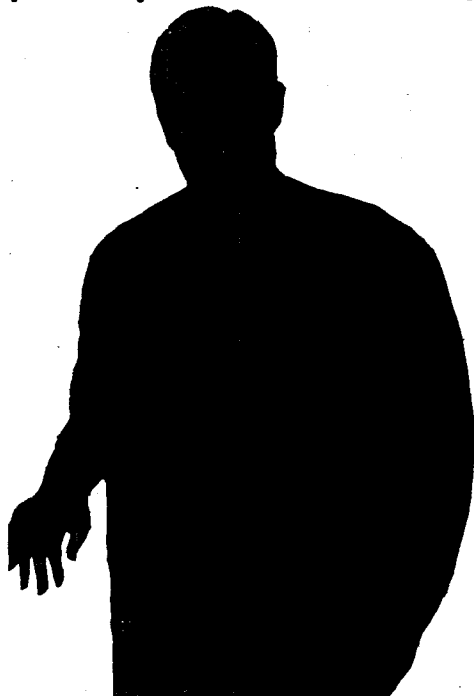


Jolly Green Giant



District Atty. Jim Garrison, who had a good thing going until the more alert newsmen of America discovered he was staging the greatest put-on of the 20th Century!

By WILLIAM L. CARTAN
Staff Correspondent

NEW ORLEANS—Many Americans rubbed their eyes in disbelief on the morning of March 1, 1967, as they read the announcement . . . Jim Garrison, an obscure district attorney in New Orleans, had arrested a prominent citizen as a "participant" in "a conspiracy" to murder President John F. Kennedy on the 22d of November, 1963, in Dallas, Texas.

The citizens who found it hard to believe that this Jim Garrison was for real were those who had more or less accepted the Warren Commission's Report which had offered the authoritative judgment that Lee Harvey Oswald, the little weirdo native of New Orleans, alone was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy.

Although some doubts had been raised concerning the adequacy of the Warren Commission's investigation into the national tragedy, it seemed preposterous to believe that a local hick prosecutor had found the answers that had baffled the rich investigative resources of the federal government.

There were other good citizens, however, who were prepared to believe that this 6 ft. 6 giant, who came to be known here as the Jolly Green Giant, might have some substantial evidence to back up his spectacular rejection of the Warren Report.

The citizens who almost clapped their hands in glee over this "champion" who was rising among them were largely Americans who had never believed that Lee Oswald had pulled the whole thing off by himself. They felt that the Warren Commission's probe was limited in scope and was mainly an exercise in official whitewashing, or at least in the clarification of superficial evidence.

They felt, too, as the foreign press believed, that President Kennedy was the target of a vast national or international plot—and

people in high places were covering up the evidence.

It was in such a climate of mingled faith and doubt over the Warren Report that the career of

one of the most remarkable demagogues in the history of American politics and jurisprudence was born, rising like a shooting star from outer space and then just as abruptly sinking ingloriously into earth, leaving many Americans, including 12 good men and women true (the jury) feeling like damn fools, like they had been led on a blind chase through Fantasyland, or more specifically in this case, Fairyland.

\$5-Million Suit

The career that shot across the world like a meteorite in 1967 was that of Jim Garrison who from the moment he arrested Clay Shaw faced the monumental challenge of convincing a jury that the socially prominent and highly respected Shaw and the irresponsible punk Lee Oswald plotted on the dark side of the moon, so to speak, to murder the President of the United States!

Sophisticated newsmen, who had picked up on the real character of the D.A. as soon as they hit town, agreed over drinks at the local press club that a guy had to be a real con man to get away with this one. But even the most blase myrmidons of the Fourth Estate were startled as Garrison reached into the twilight world for homosexuals and weirdos to testify as star witnesses against a man who had spent his lifetime doing good great things for New Orleans.

As a fitting climax to the whole fiasco, the jury took less than an hour to clear Shaw of the ridiculous charges. Garrison, like a drowning man grabbing at a last straw—or in this case a last Shaw!—placed a charge of perjury against his tortured victim hours after the jury had freed him.

As a result of it all, Clay Shaw has sued Garrison for \$5-million

JIM GARRISON

The Ugly Truth About The John F. Kennedy Conspiracy Fiasco!

charging the trial was "illegal and useless" and a violation of his civil rights. Not only that, he has obtained a federal court order that forbids the D.A. from prosecuting Shaw any further, on the perjury charges.

Garrison's persistence in prosecuting (some say "persecuting") Clay Shaw has given credence to strong rumors in high circles in New Orleans that in earlier days, Shaw—an alleged homosexual—had "tolerated" the "friendship" of a handsome young Latin American man from Garrison—and Garrison, in reprisal, had been using, or abusing the power of his D.A. office to get even with Shaw.

Exhaustive research on the part of this reporter has uncovered no evidence to support the widely held belief that Garrison and Shaw knew each other in their younger days or were "rivals" of any kind. But, what we have come up with in our revisit to the scene of Garrison's amazing hatchet job is documentary evidence of how a demagogue works in America, the land of free speech, free propaganda and free axe grinding. In this series of articles, I shall give you a blow-by-blow account of how such a demagogue operates, how he panders to the public's ignorance, bias and gullibility, blurring the issues and polluting communications with a big assist from stupid, incompetent or venal newsgatherers, or newsmen with a talent and a predilection themselves for slanting the news.

It is not a pretty story—but neither were the techniques which Garrison employed in his desperate efforts to railroad Clay Shaw to prison.

Thanks to the American system which old Abe Lincoln summed up by saying you "can't fool all the people all of the time," Shaw was exonerated, but in the process of being put through the wringer, he was crushed financially, physically and spiritually.

Broke Shaw

A cab driver who used to haul Shaw about the city when Shaw headed the International Trade Mart, told this reporter:

"It's a damn shame how they broke that man. You wouldn't know him if you saw him on the street. He's just a shell of his old self."

Plagued by the curious and assorted goons and weirdos at his old showplace home in the French Quarter, Shaw moved into modest quarters and went into hiding. Only his attorney, Ed Wegmann knows his new address—and he will permit nobody to talk to his client.

Garrison, ever since he was first elected district attorney, in 1961, has been a controversial public official in New Orleans. One of the first things he did when he took office in 1962 was to launch a drive on harlots and tagots in the French Quarter, as well as the more vulnerable purveyors of

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Reveal Garrison Mental Illness

WASHINGTON — Military records here, revealed by some newspapers during the Clay Shaw-John F. Kennedy Conspiracy trial in 1967, show that Jim Garrison, New Orleans district attorney, was under the care of a psychiatrist for four and a half years between the Fall of 1950 to the Spring of 1955.

Detailed medical histories at the Pentagon disclosed that Garrison was discharged from the Army once as totally unfit for military duty, then later allowed to enter the National Guard.

An army physical evaluation board in October of 1951 found Garrison totally unfit — and a report to this board from an army medical board at Brooke Army Hospital said:

"This patient (Garrison) has a severe and disabling psychoneurosis of long duration. It has interfered with his social and professional adjustment to a marked degree."

Explain Therapy

He is considered totally disabled from the standpoint of

military duty and moderately incapacitated in civilian adaptability. The report said the psychotherapy for Garrison was first begun in October, 1950, by a psychiatrist on the staff of Louisiana State University medical school in New Orleans. At that time, Garrison was a civilian.

The term psychoneurosis used in the medical report has come to refer to those types of symptoms complexes or syndromes in which the disturbances of behavior do not affect a person with enough severity to terminate completely his chances of making some kind of social adjustment.

Psychoneuroses, as a group, based on emotional conflicts, are to be distinguished from

psychoses. The psychoses are usually intense disorders of the mind that lead to commitment to mental hospitals.

Garrison served five years in the army in World War II. In July, 1951, after a short stint with the FBI, he volunteered for active duty for the Korean war. He stated in his medical record that he became aware that he "just couldn't make it" after the first day's routine and he reported for sick call.

He was confined to quarters for two weeks, then hospitalized at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was transferred to Brooke Army hospital on Sept. 16, 1951. He was given a medical discharge for physical disability in October.

A physical evaluation board at Brooke recommended 10 per cent permanent disability. It said the cause of the incapacity was "chronic anxiety reaction manifested by hypochondriasis; chronic exhaustion syndrome . . . and psychogenic allergic manifestations."

Lint Allergy

Psychogenic means having a mental or emotional origin. In connection with the allergies, the medical board said that Garrison then had "a rather bizarre allergic response to lint, especially wool lint." It said that he could not wear underclothing or rough cloth. It said that if he did he choked up, had air hunger, and sometimes hives.

The medical board detailed Garrison's exhaustion syndrome. It said it started while he was in law school after the war. It said that even after he started to work for a law firm he could work only half a day. As late as 1962, just before he was elected district attorney, he still was known around the Orleans parish courthouse in his assistant district attorney days as a man who liked to come to work at 11 and leave at 2.

Although Garrison had the image of an aggressive man in his assassination investigation, the army report described him as a shy, introverted individual.

SON: Demagogue At Work

vice. But, the Metropolitan Crime Commission charged that he had neglected the far more serious problem of organized crime in New Orleans—the kind of big money crime that makes for corrupt alliances between the law and the lawless.

Garrison always had an answer to the Crime Commission's charges—a kind of anti-Establishment theme to the effect that "people worry about the crime 'syndicate' but the real danger is the political establishment."

Thus, Garrison early had caught the rising mood of the people against burgeoning political institutions in America—and he learned to make the most of citizen anger and ignorance—the first rule in the book for all good demagogues. He employed his clever technique of blurring issues with implications of racial injustice at every embarrassing turn of his bizarre investigation.

Garrison's first test of his political muscle in New Orleans probably came when the eight criminal court justices in New Orleans exercised their statutory rights to oversee the financing of the D.A.'s crackdown on the prostitutes and gay boys in the French Quarter.

Garrison fought the jurists, charging that such action as theirs which crippled his campaign financially "raised interesting questions about racketeer influences."

Garrison was subsequently convicted by a court of criminally libeling the eight judges. But the conviction was reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court in a landmark decision that held that individuals have a right to criticize public officials even though the charges may turn out to be unfounded.

Veteran political observers of the New Orleans scene say that this amazing victory by Garrison over the eight powerful judges in New Orleans served to put the

PART I

fear... not of J. Christ but of J. Garrison into the hearts of the politicians!

He's A Master

A master in the art of reprisal action, Garrison used his growing political clout to get two of the judges voted off the bench—and the others, like good soldiers, fell into line. It was probably the beginning of Garrison's dream for high office—like governor.

Somebody hung the tag of Jolly Green Giant on the district attorney because of his imposing physical stature and his political glad hand. Almost invariably he made close paley-waley ties with some of the top writers of America who had come to New Orleans to cover

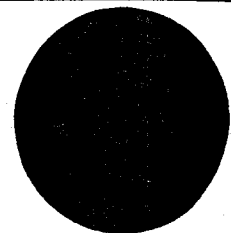
the Kennedy "conspiracy" case. Many sincerely believed Garrison had "something." But after watching the flamboyant and politically ambitious prosecutor abuse the vast powers of his office, they expressed hope that whatever Garrison had, it wasn't catching.

One such Garrison-watcher in those hectic days of 1967 was a writer who had found fault with certain aspects of the Warren Report—Edward Jay Epstein, author of "Inquest." Epstein, who wrote for the New Yorker, recalled his meeting with the man who had dared challenge the findings of the Warren Commission, and who blasted everybody from LBJ to G-Man Hoover as he developed his ever shifting theories as to how President Kennedy was assassinated.

Epstein quoted Garrison at the time as telling him that it was "the reading of your book that set me to thinking about launching an investigation into President Kennedy's assassination." Later, Epstein learned that this was a standard greeting extended by the district attorney to all critics of the Warren report.

Epstein was curious as to how Garrison discovered his "conspiracy" theory—and at dinner after his arrival in New Orleans, he put the question to Garrison point blank. Garrison explained:

"It's exactly like a chess problem. The Warren Commission moved the same pieces back and forth and got nowhere. I made a



Clay Shaw, the business and civic leader who got off Garrison's hook because the jury was not as gullible as the general public.

new move and solved the problem."

Cite Search

The "move," Garrison meant was the arrest of what came to be described as "the unlikeliest villain since Oscar Wilde." That would be Clay Shaw.

Garrison told newsmen that after Shaw was arrested, men from the District Attorney's office searched his home in the French Quarter and found in it a cache of new evidence, which he suggested they should see because it would give them "a new perspective on the case."

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D.A. Accused Of Molesting Boy

By LESLIE WITT

NEW ORLEANS — District Atty. Jim Garrison, who almost made a career out of prosecuting Clay Shaw in the John F. Kennedy Conspiracy Trial, was himself today the target of a possible grand jury probe on a charge he sexually molested a 14-year-old boy.

Garrison, who had paraded a variety of homosexuals and weirdos unsuccessfully into the 1967 trial as state witnesses against Clay Shaw and who made much of Shaw's alleged homosexuality, is now ironically accused of off-beat misconduct himself by the father of the boy.

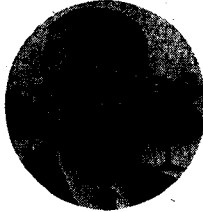
Garrison, apprised of the father's accusations, told a local newsmen: "They're not worth dignifying with an answer. Just another smear from my opponents."

The charge, however, comes from a source far removed from the double-dealing politics of New Orleans. The father of the boy is James L. Bezou, a member of one of New Orleans' most prominent and respected families.

Bezou is a former chancellor of the Belgium Consulate-General's office in New Orleans and recently was appointed executive director of the Louisiana Council for Music and the Performing Arts, which has the support of the city's socialites.

Priest Boy's Uncle

The boy's uncle is Monsignor Henry C. Bezou, for nearly a quarter of a century the superintendent of Catholic schools in the New Orleans Archdiocese, and one of the South's most beloved Catholic



James Bezou, father of the boy who allegedly was molested by District Atty. Jim Garrison.

prelates.

The father was reluctant to discuss the case with this reporter because of Garrison's powerful political clout and his facility and agility for striking back with reprisal action against his critics.

But, he finally admitted he had made the allegations in a statement which was relayed to the foreman of the Orleans parish grand jury, William Krummel, Sr., by the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission's executive director, Aaron Kohn.

Visibly shaken with outrage and fear, the father said the incident occurred in the New Orleans Athletic Club, where Garrison is known to gravitate.

Both the father and the older son confronted Garrison outside the door.

Bezou said the older boy was enraged to the point of wanting to slug Garrison on the spot.

Grand jury foreman Krummel declined to discuss the case, although he admitted

he had received Kohn's letter. Krummel said that he was retiring along with his grand jury and indicated that the matter would be left up to the next grand jury to be appointed this month.

Kohn, as head of the privately financed crime commission, has been at sword's point with Garrison ever since crime members charged that the D. A. had become so obsessed with the Clay Shaw conspiracy case that he had allowed organized crime to get a foothold in New Orleans.

Kohn, too, was reluctant to discuss the Bezou boy's story, but he confirmed that he had sent the letter to the grand jury. The letter said in part:

Story Blacked Out

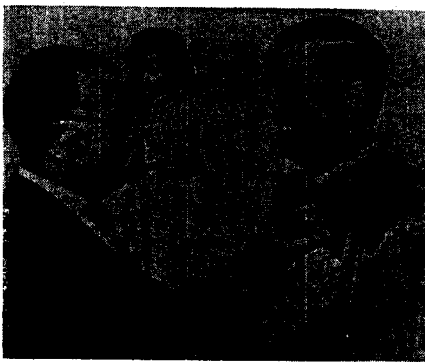
"On a Sunday in June, 1969, at the New Orleans Athletic Club, District Attorney Jim Garrison conducted himself in a manner which, if true, would be in violation of Louisiana criminal laws."

The laws in question, he pointed out, "punish indecent behavior with juveniles" and "behavior against nature attempts."

The letter went on to say that the father spoke to three men about the incident and all three had "repeatedly and independently communicated" the father's accusation to Kohn.

The letter alleges that the incident involving the boy was witnessed by his older brother who openly denounced Garrison at the club.

Kohn wrote further:



Monsignor Henry Bezou, right, receiving one of France's highest honors — The Legion of Honor.

"It is hoped that your grand jury will see fit to call before it for testimony without the presence of any of Mr. Garrison's staff the three men spoken to by the father, the father himself and the sons."

Under Louisiana law, an "indecent behavior" count carries a maximum of one year in jail and \$500 fine. A "crime against nature" charge carries a possible \$2,000 fine and five years in prison, but merely an "attempt" cuts the penalty in half.

Several weeks ago, Jack Anderson, who has been conducting the syndicated Washington Merry-Go-Round column since the death of Drew Pearson, carried a brief story on the father's accusations, but the local papers kept the news out of their pages that day.

It was the same newspaper—the New Orleans States-Item—which had demanded Garrison's resignation hours af-

ter the jury in the conspiracy trial fiasco had cleared defendant Clay Shaw of any plot to murder President Kennedy.

One of the editors of this Newhouse chain of newspapers explained why the story was blacked out in New Orleans, even though other newspapers through the country had carried the column:

"We had blasted Garrison so severely that we felt our publication of the story would be construed as a malicious action. Besides, we didn't believe the information was privileged matter."

Other citizens of New Orleans told this reporter that one of the reasons Garrison was able to get away with his vicious prosecution of Clay Shaw is that New Orleans has been kept in the dark on many things because of a news vacuum created by a lack of competitive news coverage by the local one-chain press.

