

Organized Oswald Plot Probed, Paper Claims

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Orleans Parish (county) district attorney's office has started an investigation into circumstances surrounding President John F. Kennedy's assassination, the States-Item said today.

The district attorney's office "is pouring out-of-the-ordinary sums of money into a probe of a possible assassination plot," the paper said.

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison could not be reached for comment. His office issued this brief statement: "There is no basis for the story. Mr. Garrison assumes the story is based on rumor. He has not seen the story."

The Warren Commission, after a thorough investigation, reported in 1964 that it had found no evidence of a conspiracy.

The newspaper said today that "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 newspaper said Charles Ray Ward, Garrison's chief assistant, confirmed several weeks ago that an investigation was under way.

"Since the early conversation with Ward, the investigation apparently has picked up momentum," the States-Item said.

Ward was unavailable for comment.

Assassin Lee Harvey Oswald lived in New Orleans the summer before Kennedy was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. While here, Oswald claimed to represent the pro-Castro "Fair Play for Cuba" movement.

The district attorney's office has spent more than \$8,000 on unexplained travel and investigative expenses since last Nov.

25, most of it in connection with trips to Dallas, Houston, Miami, Washington, San Francisco and Angola, Louisiana's state penitentiary, the paper said.

The States-Item said it had uncovered these details about the investigation here:

A man arrested here and booked as a fugitive from Texas four days after Kennedy's death was kept under surveillance for the district attorney for 24 hours last month. The man was supposed to appear before a parish grand jury, but it is not known if he did so.

A Cuban serving nine years for burglary has been transferred from the Angola penitentiary to the Orleans Parish prison by the district attorney's office. This man formerly lived just a block from the last New Orleans address of Oswald and is reported to have known Oswald.

A Cuban with a Miami address was paid money by the district attorney's office for "investigative expense" in January.

Oswald's activities in relation to Cuba were investigated by the Warren Commission, which said it found nothing to prove any conspiracy.