

Ward Says DA Sought Support Of Kennedys

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District Attorney candidate Charles Ray Ward told a rally last night incumbent Jim Garrison met secretly with an emissary of the Kennedy family to seek their support in the prosecution of Clay Shaw, but was turned down because his evidence was deemed insufficient.

Addressing a rally at 18 Rosa Park, Ward said prior to the trial of Shaw, Garrison revealed to the Kennedy family the evidence on which he based his claim that Shaw conspired to kill President John F. Kennedy.

"Jim Garrison was in touch with the Kennedy family—both (the late) Bobby and Teddy Kennedy," Ward said. "They reviewed Garrison's evidence and they came to the conclusion that Garrison was trying to use the death of President Kennedy to further his own political ambitions — and that Garrison's investigation was a farce."

Ward, who was a first assistant DA under Garrison but did not participate in the unsuccessful prosecution of Shaw, said, "Certainly, if the Kennedy family had any faith in Jim Garrison, they would have come to his aid. They would defend him now."

"But not only did they not come to his aid, they have publicly criticized him and refused to have anything to do with his investigation."

Ward concluded, "If the Kennedy family reviewed the evidence and did not have any confidence or faith in Jim Garrison, how can the people of New Orleans be fooled?"