

9 Years After His Dramatic Court Case . . .

Ex-DA Jim Garrison: I've Been Proved Right At Last About CIA Link With JFK's Death

"It's taken 9 years of harassment from the U.S. Justice Department, IRS, FBI and CIA, but I've finally been vindicated. People are finally realizing that what I was telling them in 1967 was true."

There was no bitterness — just weariness — in the voice of Jim Garrison, the 54-year-old, ex-New Orleans District Attorney, who tried to prove in court that President John Kennedy was assassinated by "employees of the CIA."

In 1969, Garrison brought New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw to trial on conspiracy charges in the assassination, but the jury acquitted him "despite numerous witnesses at the trial linking Shaw to Lee Harvey Oswald." Garrison concluded that Oswald was a low-level CIA agent — and so was Shaw, who died in 1974.

The CIA, which denied Shaw was ever connected with the agency, recently admitted it had contacts with Shaw since 1949. The admission came last March after a lawsuit was filed to declassify hundreds of old CIA documents. The agency voluntarily released two memos concerning Shaw.

An April 6, 1967, CIA memo states that the New Orleans office "had contact with Shaw until 1956." Another memo, dated May 1, 1967, says: "The CIA staff, in a detailed staff study of the Garrison investigation, has noted past CIA contact with . . . Clay Shaw."

Former CIA official Victor Marchetti divulged to The ENQUIRER:

"The CIA placed a larger significance on the conspiracy trial in New Orleans than it should have."

Marchetti, a 14-year veteran of the agency and former executive assistant to the deputy director, added: "CIA officials didn't like Garrison.

"They seemed more than a little concerned about what was happening at the trial. The agency didn't give Garrison any cooperation and indicated it did everything it could



ACCUSER

Jim Garrison

Garrison believed Shaw, who died in 1974, was a CIA agent.



ACCUSED

Clay Shaw

to help Garrison's opposition.

"Since leaving the CIA, I'm beginning to believe that the government was involved in JFK's assassination."

During the Shaw trial, a storm of controversy descended on Garrison.

"It was the biggest smear

campaign in history — and I'm sure the CIA was behind it," said Garrison. "I was investigated by the IRS, the Justice Department threatened to prosecute me, the FBI refused to cooperate with me and even tapped my phones.

"Most Americans just couldn't cope with the idea that a small band of low-level CIA agents who thought Kennedy was selling out to Communism wanted him out of the way.

"Now," said Garrison, who is in private law practice in Louisiana, "I feel vindicated. But I want no more to do with the assassination investigation. I've done my part — and paid the price."

— JOHN BLACKBURN