

Informer Says U.S. Made Him Entrap Garrison

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New Orleans

Pershing Gervais, the Federal Government's informer who said he delivered payoffs to New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison in a gambling case, was quoted yesterday as saying he was forced to entrap Garrison after calculated harassment of himself by the Justice Department.

In a filmed report from British Columbia, WWL-TV of New Orleans showed Gervais saying he was unhappy about his role in connection with Garrison's arrest, although he said the government had got him an \$18,000-a-year job — tax free — with General Motors of Canada.

United States Attorney Gerald Gallinghouse, asked about the television interview, said he was aware of it, but added, "The law and court rules do not allow us to comment on pending cases."

PINBALL

Garrison, along with two police officers and six persons involved in the pinball machine industry, were charged last June in connection with an alleged cover-up of illegal gambling in the state. All are free on



PERSHING GERVAIS
'I was forced to lie'

bond, awaiting trial.

Garrison has repeatedly said his arrest was part of a government plot against him, stemming from his persistent investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Key to the government's case was a 107-page affidavit quoting transcribed conversation between Gervais and various persons who allegedly were involved in the payoffs.

TRACED

Since the affidavit was released, Gervais, a former associate of Garrison, has

been in seclusion.

WWL-TV reporter Rosemary James said she had traced Gervais to Vancouver, B.C., where he was living under the name of Paul Maso with his wife and two children.

In answer to Mrs. James' questions about his involvement he said, "My mind's a little muddled about it, but it started with constant, calculated harassment."

"What are you saying?" she asked.

"I would rather say that I was forced to work for them . . . but more than that, I was forced to lie for them, that's a better description," Gervais replied.

INTRIGUE

Gervais is no stranger to police intrigue and undercover work. He was once a member of the New Orleans police force, but was fired. He later gave testimony before a parish grand jury which was considered instrumental in a public bribery indictment brought against former police Superintendent Joseph L. Scheuring, the man who fired him.

Gervais served as Garrison's chief investigator for a time, and has been a private investigator.

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