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Preacher Fails To Appear in Garrison Probe

Kentwood preacher Clyde Johnson changed his mind today and failed to appear at the office of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison for questioning in Garrison's presidential assassination probe.

A subpoena for the Rev. Mr. Johnson to appear this morning was issued by Garrison's office yesterday, but so far has not been served.

THE MINISTER, who is also a merchant in the hometown of accused conspirator Clay L. Shaw, said he would not be breaking the law by not showing up because he has not been served formally with the subpoena.

He said that for reasons of his own he was not coming to New Orleans, and would have a statement to make later today.

The Rev. Mr. Johnson appeared in court at Amite today for trial on a property damage suit filed against him by the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co. The suit charges the minister damaged a telephone. Tangipahoa Parish sheriff's deputies said the trial was rescheduled for the September term of court.

On another front of the probe, New Orleans police yesterday cleared two officers of charges that they tried to bribe or intimidate a witness into supplying evidence in Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation.

Acting Supt. of Police P. J. Trosclair said an intensive investigation by his department concluded that neither Dets. Lynn Loisel nor Louis Ivon had violated department regulations or state law.

Alvin Beauboeuf, onetime roommate of the late David W. Ferrie, a key figure in the Garrison probe, had made the accusation against the two in-

vestigators.

TROSCLAIR ACKNOWLEDGED that Beauboeuf was offered money and help in finding a job in exchange for corroborative evidence—but said no bribe was intended.

The police official said offers of that kind are not unusual police procedure in difficult investigations.

Trosclair added that the investigation showed no evidence to back Beauboeuf's claim that he was threatened if he made trouble by disclosing the offer.

Prior to calling a press conference and making the charges against the two officers, Beauboeuf signed a sworn statement in which he said the detectives asked him only to tell the truth.

THE STATEMENT quotes

Beauboeuf as saying that Loisel offered to help him with money and help in finding a job after Beauboeuf complained about his financial problems.

At the later news conference, Beauboeuf said the statement was signed under duress after the officers threatened him.

Trosclair said the two investigators sincerely believed Beauboeuf had information valuable to the investigation.

Beauboeuf shared an apartment with Ferrie during 1963, and both were picked up for questioning three days after President Kennedy was murdered at Dallas. Ferrie, Beauboeuf and another Ferrie apartment mate drove to Houston the day Kennedy was killed.

FERRIE, A FORMER airline pilot, died Feb. 22—five days after the Garrison investigation became public—of what the coroner called "natural causes."

The police report will go to Garrison's office, and Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion will be supplied with a copy if he wishes it, Trosclair said. Gremillion had been asked to take action in the matter by Beauboeuf and his attorney, Burton Klein.

Klein reacted immediately by challenging Trosclair to play a tape recording which the attorney said was made of the alleged bribe attempt.

Klein charged it is "a sad commentary on modern day law enforcement officials when absolutely conclusive evidence of felonies is pushed aside because of the power of a district attorney and the fear it places in public officials. It has now engulfed the police department."

TROSCLAIR SAID he had listened to the tape recording, which was made in the Metairie law office of Hugh B. Exnicious, then serving as Beauboeuf's lawyer.

Although Trosclair did not say so at his news conference yesterday, police are believed to have concluded that the tape was edited or altered in some manner after the recording was made.

Klein assailed Trosclair's investigation by asserting: "The action of Chief Trosclair acting under authority of the superintendent of police is a discredit to every man who wears a badge."