

EX-DA AIDE BLASTS CLAY SHAW ARREST

T-P 6/27/67

Gurvich Resigns Post on Garrison's Staff

William Gurvich, who had been one of the chief spokesmen in District Attorney Jim Garrison's assassination probe, said Monday Clay L. Shaw, named by the DA as conspiring to kill President Kennedy, should never have been arrested.

Gurvich, a private detective, said that in the seven months he has been connected with the investigation, he never saw any reliable evidence against Shaw.

It was reported that Gurvich, who officially resigned his investigative post earlier Monday, sent a telegram to Orleans Parish Grand Jury foreman Albert V. LaBiche, asking that he be allowed to testify before the jury and tell what he knew about the probe.

'KNOWS NO EVIDENCE'

Gurvich said he knows of no evidence "whatsoever" that a conspiracy plot was hatched in New Orleans and said he has faith in the Warren Report.

The investigator said "illegal and unethical" practices were ordered by Garrison in the DA's probe, actions "that warrant investigation" by the parish or a federal grand jury.

In reply to charges by Garrison, that he was a "double agent" and had never been the DA's chief aide, Gurvich said he definitely was "chief aide" and if "I was a double agent I was working for Jim Garrison and for justice."

GIVEN FILE

Gurvich said Garrison had given him a copy of the master file on the case, an action Gurvich said should prove he was important to the investigation.

Gurvich said Shaw, former managing director of the International Trade Mart, has never been identified as "Clay Bertrand," an alias Garrison connected to Shaw at the time of Shaw's arrest.

The investigator said the DA

had a "theory" of the alleged conspiracy at the time he began his investigation and that Garrison's theory has changed several times since then.

STATEMENTS MADE

Other statements made by Gurvich in his broad condemnation of Garrison's investigation included:

—That when he joined the investigation he assumed Garrison "had something," although the DA never mentioned motives to him.

—That he was "sick" when he heard of Shaw's arrest. He said that at the time he felt Shaw was innocent, but he wanted to

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 3, Col. 1

Continued from Page 1

stay on the job to learn the whole story.

—That he realized he was violating guidelines set down by Criminal Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty, but what he had to say was "so important" he felt he had to do it.

—That he first broke his story to Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, because "someone named Kennedy should know the truth."

Gurvich had gone to Garrison's office at 10:30 a. m. Monday after announcing he intended to ask the DA to reevaluate his investigation, and was refused admittance by Louis Ivon, a police officer working for Garrison.

Following a confrontation with Ivon, Gurvich was admitted to the inner offices by Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock, but did not manage to see the district attorney.

GURVICH LEAVES

About 15 minutes later Gurvich exited and told waiting newsmen that he had sent Garrison a telegram telling him it was "imperative" that he see him at 10:30 a.m.

"It's 11 o'clock, and I have a very important appointment. I don't wait for anyone longer than a half hour," Gurvich said.

Gurvich also said that he would resign if Garrison refused to reevaluate his investigation. At noon he telephoned The Times-Picayune to report that he had officially resigned "as a member of the staff," be-

cause he had not been able to see Garrison.

SPOKE TO REPORTERS

As he spoke to reporters outside of Garrison's office, he reported that he had been "inactive in the case for a very short time," which he placed at a "couple of weeks."

Asked whether he had "serious doubts" about the charge against accused conspirator Shaw, Gurvich replied, "of course I do."

A newsman asked him if he had doubts about the investigation for as long as two months ago, and Gurvich said, "much longer ago than that."

In another development the Orleans Parish Grand Jury issued a subpoena for another official of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, which has called for a state investigation of recent charges made against the conduct of Garrison's investigation.

The subpoena was for William I. Monaghan, 1009 Falcon rd., Metairie, who is a vice-president of the MCC.

Thursday the MCC sent a letter to Louisiana Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion, asking that an impartial body of qualified men be selected to do the investigating.

Aaron M. Kohn, MCC managing director, and E. C. Upton Jr., president, have already been subpoenaed at Garrison's request, as a result of the MCC letter.

However, Upton explained that Monaghan had been subpoenaed at the MCC's request to act as a substitute for him. He said that an illness in his family will require him to leave town early Wednesday, when Kohn and Monaghan are scheduled to appear.

Later in the day Garrison issued a press release in which he said that Gurvich only had a limited role in his investigation. He said:

STATEMENT MADE

"It should be noted that the chief investigator of this office

during the course of this investigation has been officer Louis Ivon, a member of the New Orleans Police Department assigned to this office. Mr. Gurvich's role in the investigation was principally concerned with regard to photographic work, and in fairness to him it should be said that his photographic work was very good. He was assigned a limited amount of investigative work.

A number of months ago Gurvich told newsmen his official title was "chief aide." However, due to his prominence in many phases of the investigation, he was often described as chief investigator,

although he did not bear that title.

Gurvich has also said that it was Garrison who approached him and requested his help in the investigation.

Garrison's version is different: **GURVICH APPEARED**
"Some months ago Mr. Gurvich, who operates a night watchmen service, appeared out of the blue and offered his assistance to our investigation. After a few months he just as quickly disappeared from view. We assumed that he became dissatisfied when he was made neither chief investigator nor a paid member of the staff."

Garrison began his statement by attributing Gurvich's

actions to an effort to discredit his investigation:

"I am sure that almost everyone will recognize Mr. Gurvich's statement as the latest move from the Eastern headquarters of the Establishment to attempt to discredit our investigation into the true facts of President Kennedy's assassination. It becomes increasingly apparent that elements of the Federal Government are absolutely desperate in their attempt to prevent the people of this country from finding out what really happened in Dallas."

The New York Times quoted Gurvich over the weekend as saying he has "grave misgivings" about the probe and that he would ask Garrison to take "an entirely new look at the whole matter."

After leaving Garrison's office and wading through newsmen Gurvich went to the office of Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. in an attempt to see Vernon Bundy, a Negro narcotics addict who testified that he saw Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald together on the lakefront in 1963.

Sheriff Heyd said Gurvich was denied access to the prison until Heyd could check with Garrison or until Gurvich got permission from Bundy's lawyer.

GURVICH ATTRIBUTES

Gurvich attributed his misgivings to "the behavior of certain people in the District Attorney's Office and the criminal procedures employed in his case."

However, he said he has "no reason to believe that Garrison does not believe that there was a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy hatched in New Orleans. He is sincere in that belief."

"This standard and professional method of criminal investigation was not always used in all phases of this investigation," he said.