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Reporters 'Examine' the D.A.

PLOT OR POLITICS? The Garrison Case. By Rosemary James and Jack Wardlaw. Pelican. Paperback. \$1.75.

By CHARLES A. FERGUSON

There is a sharp division of opinion among those who have followed the career of District Attorney Jim Garrison over the question of whether the man is a thoroughly unscrupulous human being or a relentless seeker after the truth.

"Plot or Politics?" does not attempt to resolve this question, nor does it attempt to answer the more important question posed by its title. There are no heroes, no startling revelations or disclosures. It is, instead, despite its title, a recapitulation of the events which have occurred to date in the district attorney's investigation into the death of President John F. Kennedy coupled with an explanation as to why, in fact, they may have occurred.

The fact that such an investigation, aside from its historical significance, should find such a ready audience, the authors suggest, stems from the fact that the minds of many persons tend to boggle at simple explanations. For them, it is difficult to accept the idea that the late President's death was the random act of a lone assassin and not the product of some plot.

"The most likely explanation of Garrison's motives," according to the authors, "is that he got interested in what he considered inconsistencies in the Warren Report and that interest blotted out all other interests."

For all this, state the authors, staff reporters for the States-Item, the district attorney has yet to produce one piece of solid evidence that places a group of New Orleans-based adventurers, according to his the-

ory, in Dallas with guns in their hands on the parade route Nov. 22, 1963 — evidence that will stand the toughest kind of cross examination in court.

"Plot or Politics?" is complete with an 18 page appendix, including the cast of characters in the Garrison investigation as well as photographs of a good many of them.

If the book has a single flaw, it is that the authors titillate the reader's curiosity without ever really satisfying it. Moreover, in striving to remain impartial, they have painted most of those involved in the investigation in the same hue.

Harold Weisberg
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9/28/67

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