

EXILE REFUSES TO GIVE REPLIES

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Two Men Questioned in
Garrison Probe

A Cuban exile, presently serving a jail sentence for a burglary conviction, Thursday refused to answer two questions before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in connection with the district attorney's presidential assassination probe.

Miguel Torres, who publicly stated that District Attorney Jim Garrison's staff attempted to bribe him in exchange for his "cooperation" in the investigation, was one of two men called before the grand jury.

The other witness was H. H. Anderson, a former manager of the Roosevelt Hotel.

Torres, returned to New Orleans from the state penitentiary in Angola for questioning, appeared briefly before the grand jury in the Criminal Courts Building and was then taken before Criminal District Court Judge Bernard J. Bagert.

JUDGE INFORMED

It was then that assistant District Attorney James Alcock told Judge Bagert that Torres refused to reply to two questions before the jury and used the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution which frees citizens from having to give testimony which may incriminate them.

The questions, Alcock said, were as follows:

"Were statements you made

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on national television on the National Broadcasting Co. in June, 1967, concerning the district attorney true?"

And, "Did you appear on national television this year?"

Alcock charged that Torres and John "The Baptist" Cancier, a convicted burglar who also made similar statements on the NBC program, accused the district attorney of "wrongdoing on national television but refused to tell the grand jury about it."

It would be "a very serious matter" if the charges by Torres are true, Alcock added. He said that Torres and Cancier "just tell television and Walter Sheridan about it. When they have an opportunity to do something about it they take the Fifth Amendment."

Burton Klein, Torres' attorney, then told Judge Bagert that he would like to call a witness to the stand. Appearing irritated, Judge Bagert replied, "Are you ready to go? We'll go all the way, all the way, this minute."

Klein said he was told last week by a member of Garrison's staff that there was a possibility that Torres would be granted immunity if he testified before the grand jury. (Under Louisiana law, immunity can be granted only in a case of public bribery.)

RIGHT UPHELD

Klein said that offering Torres immunity "therefore makes him a suspect, and as a suspect he has the right to remain silent."

Following a discussion, Judge Bagert told both sides to research the problem and file memoranda. Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara will rule on the issue if Torres again refuses to answer questions when he appears before the new grand jury after it convenes.

Anderson's association with the probe into the death of President John F. Kennedy

was not explained. However, it was noted that he was an employe of the Hotel Adolphus in Dallas, Tex., before the assassination in 1963. Also, the hotel was mentioned in the Warren Commission's investigation into the slaying.

Additionally, Anderson was the Roosevelt manager in 1966 when Lee Odom of Dallas says he met with Clay L. Shaw in connection with the promotion of a bullfight.

Shaw, the 54-year-old retired International Trade Mart managing director, is accused by Garrison of participating in a New Orleans-based conspiracy to murder Kennedy. Odom has said that the manager of the Roosevelt recommended Shaw to him for advice on promoting the bullfight.