

Garrison Drops His Plot--and About Time

DISTRICT ATTORNEY JIM GARRISON of New Orleans has at long last quit his weird and monstrous attempt to prove that President Kennedy died as the result of a plot hatched in Washington by the Federal Government itself.

An announcement to that effect has been coupled, significantly enough, with his declaration that he is thinking of abandoning public life and has no further political ambitions. It came as Clay L. Shaw, the prime victim of Garrison's jerry-built conspiracy case, went on trial on a two-year-old charge of perjury.

SHAW WAS A RESPECTED BUSINESSMAN and civic leader in New Orleans when Garrison mysteriously singled him out as a major participant in the Kennedy assassination. A jury gave little heed to testimony from the ragtag collection of witnesses brought forward by Garrison and promptly acquitted Shaw. Garrison then sought to breathe life into his fantasy by charging Shaw with perjury.

It has been openly charged by the defense in the course of the current perjury trial that the prosecution is going forward merely to promote the sale of Garrison's newly published book. The true motives behind the prosecution and the curious events that mercilessly preceded it are of course known to Garrison alone — but are obviously open to conjecture.

WHATEVER THEY MAY BE, they have thus far succeeded in bringing Shaw close to financial ruin in his advanced years. To what little extent the Garrison allegations have received credence, they may have brought discredit on a Chief Justice of the United States, on the presidential commission he headed, on the Department of Justice, and numerous individuals.

Garrison's performance has amounted to a perversion of the legal processes he was elected to uphold, and his projected withdrawal from public office will, if it eventuates, be most welcome.