

T-P 11-22-68

CRISMAN HEARD BY GRAND JURY

JFK Death Knowledge Is Disclaimed Anew

The Orleans Parish Grand Jury Thursday excused a radio commentator from Tacoma, Wash., after hearing little more than one hour of testimony from him in connection with District Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy death probe.

Fred Lee Crisman, 47, and his attorney, Robert G. Griffin, also of Tacoma, said they plan to spend the rest of the week seeing New Orleans after he was released at 3 p.m.

Crisman expressed bafflement at being called before the jury. He said he knows none of the principals in the case.

However, he said he did know an Omaha, Neb., evangelist, Thomas E. Beckman, who testified in the probe earlier this year.

Garrison claimed that Crisman made many trips to New Orleans and Dallas in connection with "undercover work for manufacturers of military hardware." Garrison also said Crisman acted as a Gypsy minister.

TELLS OF VISITS

Crisman said that he was last in New Orleans about two years ago for just several days. Before that his last visit occurred while stationed in Florida during World War II, he said.

Crisman said he was a fighter pilot in World War II and the Korean War.

A ruddy complexion, square jawed man of average height, Crisman said he won the Distinguished Flying Cross several times, the Purple Heart and other decorations.

He said he is not a minister of any kind, but added that he wrote guidelines for the Office of Equal Opportunity Head



FRED LEE CRISMAN (left), a Tacoma, Wash., radio commentator, and his attorney, Robert G. Griffin, also of Tacoma, arrive at the Criminal Courts Building Thursday to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury. Crisman had been subpoenaed by District Attorney Jim Garrison, who is investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Start Program as it applies to Gypsies.

He said he took on the job at the request of a Gypsy whom he has known all his life.

TAUGHT ENGLISH

Crisman said he was a high school English teacher in his native Tacoma before turning to radio and writing.

He has worked for the Boeing Co. in Seattle, also, he said. Garrison contends that President John F. Kennedy was

killed by elements of the industrial warfare complex working with individuals in the government.

Before hearing Crisman, the jury indicted James All Digham, 40, 2128 Rousseau, on a charge of murdering Gabriel Guillot Jr., 21, 2212 Rousseau.

Guillot died in front of 830 Nashville after being shot in the back early Tuesday. Digham reportedly told police he

shot after seeing Guillot fleeing from the apartment of Digham's estranged wife, Miriam, 39, 816 Nashville.

Digham reportedly claimed he mistook Guillot for a prowler.

Another indictment was returned against James Coleman, 60, 2311 Magnolia. He is charged with murdering Elmer Oatis, 21, 2309 Magnolia, in the 2500 block of Magnolia Sunday.