

S.F. CHRONICLE - 7/9/69
\$2 Million Libel

Marin Man Sues The New Yorker

A Mill Valley writer sued The New Yorker magazine for \$2 million yesterday, charging that he was libeled in an article on New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison.

William W. Turner, 41, a contributing editor of Ramparts magazine and a former FBI agent, said the story falsely and maliciously portrayed his role in Garrison's "conspiracy" investigation in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Turner's suit, filed in Marin county Superior Court, said the libel, injuring his professional reputation, occurred in a "Reporter at Large" article written by Edward Jay Epstein and published July 13, 1968.

DEFENDANTS

Epstein and the publisher of The New Yorker were named co-defendants.

The article said that Garrison at one stage in his search for assassination clues "reinforced his permanent staff with volunteer recruits from a growing corps of critics of the Warren Commission."

Among such "volunteers," Epstein wrote, were Turner and Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment," a book blasting the Warren Commission's findings in the assassination.

Turner said the article

falsely conveyed, among other things, the notion that he "is a poor and incomplete investigator willing to take or recommend impetuous action based on his own prejudices and incomplete or unreliable information."

Turner, who lives at 325 Vernal Avenue, Mill Valley, asked \$1 million general damages and \$1 million punitive damages.

He is the author of two books, "The Police Establishment" and "Invisible Witness: The Use and Abuse of the New Technology of Crime Investigation." Last year he was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in the Sixth District.

Author Sues S.F. EXAMINER New Yorker For Libel 7/8/69

A Marin County writer sued The New Yorker magazine for \$2 million today, claiming he was maliciously libeled in an article about his role in an investigation of a "conspiracy" in the assassination of President Kennedy.

The plaintiff is William W. Turner, 425 Vernal Ave., Mill Valley, former FBI agent and Ramparts editor.

The magazine, publisher F.H. Fleischmann and reporter Edward Jay Epstein were named defendants in the suit, filed in Marin County Superior Court.

The action cited a "Reporter at Large" article in the July 13, 1968 issue, in which Epstein wrote about the investigative activities of New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison.

"Pied Piper"

The article said Garrison relied in part on "volunteer recruits from the growing corps of critics of the Warren Commission," and added:

"A number of these people, who might best be described as peripatetic demonologists, are attracted to Garrison like the children of Hamelin to the Pied Piper."

Among these, it included Turner and Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment."

"Unstable"

Turner said in his suit it said the article pictured him as "mentally unstable, dishonest, totally without regard for the rights and feelings of others, and a poor and incomplete investigator willing to take or recommend impetuous action based on his own prejudices and incomplete or unreliable infor-