

# The Stat

Vol. 101—No. 190

Wednesday, January 18, 1978

## *Criticism bared* **Hoover on Gar**

The late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover considered former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison a "shyster" and his investigation of the murder of President John F. Kennedy a "fiasco," according to FBI files on the assassination released today.

The comments on Garrison were among a half-ton of FBI documents recounting the agency's investigations of hundreds of tips, rumors and letters it received about the 1963 assassination.

Garrison began his own investigation

of the murder in late 1966 and soon indicted the late New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw on a charge of conspiring to assassinate Kennedy. Shaw was acquitted in early 1969 after a one-month trial, and a federal judge then blocked Garrison from prosecuting Shaw for alleged perjury during the trial.

The Hoover comments on Garrison are buried in the 58,754 pages of documents released today — the second huge batch of FBI files on the assassi-

nation investigation to be released — and are consistent with his bitter reactions to other critics of the investigation.

In scrawled notes, Hoover insisted that the FBI stay out of Garrison's inquiry. He said there were to be no statements, on or off the record, "about the Garrison fiasco."

"... More and more it becomes evident that we should stay as far away as we can from this shyster," Hoover wrote at the bottom of one report on

# es-Item Final

New Orleans, La.

10 Cents

*in FBI files*

## rison: 'fiasco'

the Garrison investigation. He said it was outside bureau jurisdiction and was no more than a state matter concerning what he considered a shake-down of sex deviates in New Orleans.

Garrison could not be reached today for comment on Hoover's charges.

The late FBI director's comments on other critics of the FBI and Warren Commission investigation also turn up in the documents.

For example, when British historian H.R. Trever-Roper wrote a critical

article about the Warren Commission report, Hoover called it "tripe" and said he would not dignify it with a reply.

Hoover also said "absolutely no information or assistance" was to be furnished to William Manchester while the author was working on his book "The Death of a President."

The angry memos exchanged among Hoover and his closest associates resort to harsh name-calling to describe such critics as Mark Lane and Dick

Gregory. But they also reflect the officials' tacit admission that they would have to live with the criticism as best they could because it was certain to continue.

In the year after the murder, La C and Gregory launched well-publicized theories that a conspiracy was behind the assassination and that the FBI, and later the Warren Commission, failed to uncover it. Others, including author

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## Garrison probe a 'fiasco'

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Edward J. Epstein, found fault with the commission's report.

Besides illustrating Hoover's views on FBI critics, the files released today also show that more than a year after Kennedy was assassinated, the FBI was still investigating hundreds of tips from spiritualists, "cranks," convicts and average citizens who thought they might know something about the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963.

One sequence of memos tells of the detailed investigation touched off when the FBI learned that a man in Pasco, Wash., had sent a \$6 spray of flowers to the funeral of Lee Harvey Oswald. He told agents he did it on impulse.

A note on one letter from Assistant Attorney General Herbert Miller to Hoover on Aug. 12, 1964, characterizes much of the file:

"We have received numerous complaints relating to individuals other than Lee Harvey Oswald. The complaints generally relate to remarks and threats allegedly made by individuals concerning their feelings about President Kennedy, other officials and the policies of the administration. The

complaints are initiated by cranks, mental cases and patriotic citizens."

The documents, in cartons weighing 60 pounds apiece, were released under the Freedom of Information Act — at 10 cents a page.

There are accounts of FBI inquiries to trace tips from spiritualists, numerologists, and of a futile effort to find a gypsy tea room in Manhattan to trace one rumor.

One anonymous letter said television entertainer Johnny Carson received a telegram two days before the assassination saying Kennedy would be shot. Two agents interviewed Carson, who said he recalled no such wire and would have called authorities had he received it.

One memo seems to account for the meticulous tracing of every tip, no matter how belated or far-fetched. A document on an anonymous memo says:

"Although the source of the note is unknown, it is believed U.S. Secret Service should be given the information, nebulous as it is, to avoid any possibility of criticism of the bureau at a future date."