

over

# The Times-Picayune

ional Gateway Since 1837

Times Picayune

**COLDER**  
and partly cloudy Thursday with northerly winds 12 to 22 miles an hour is the United States Weather Bureau's forecast for New Orleans and vicinity. Highest expected, 49-52.

MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1967

Second-Class Postage Paid  
at New Orleans, La.

SINGLE COPY 10 CENTS

## TESTS BEING RUN ON BODY OF KENNEDY PROBE FIGURE

### Ferrie's Body Removed from Residence



POLICE OFFICERS remove the body of David William Ferrie from his second-floor apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy.

—Photo by The Times-Picayune  
Wednesday. The body was removed through the rear entrance of the building.

### Garrison Says Arrest of Ferrie Was Planned

Toxicological tests were being run Wednesday night on the body of David William Ferrie, a central figure in District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation into the death of President John F. Kennedy, to determine the cause of his death.

Dr. Nicholas Chetta, Orleans Parish coroner, said anatomical findings showed that Ferrie suffered a rupture of a blood vessel at the base of the brain, which caused a hemorrhage.

Garrison said at a press conference Wednesday afternoon that he had decided Wednesday morning, before he learned of Ferrie's death, to arrest the man next week.

The DA would not elaborate on what charges he would have filed or what evidence he had.

#### NOTE IS FOUND

Ferrie was found dead at noon Wednesday in his apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy. Dr. Chetta found a not on Ferrie's dining room table which read in part:

"To leave this life is, for me, a sweet prospect. I find nothing in it that is desirable and on the other hand, every-

The coroner said more information was written on the note, but declined to say what it was.

Dr. Chetta said although Ferrie had an assortment of drugs in his apartment, he did not know whether Ferrie had consumed any.

He said the time of death was "sometime last (Tuesday) evening."

Garrison said his investiga-



**DAVID W. FERRIE**

Found dead in apartment.

tors, who had kept a stake-out at Ferrie's apartment for "some time," saw the lights in Ferrie's apartment go out at 11 p. m.

However, George Lardner, a reporter for the Washington

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 14, Col. 1

## TESTS ON BODY

Continued from Page 1

Post and Times-Herald, here to cover Garrison's investigation, said he went to Ferrie's residence about midnight to interview him and remained until about 4 a. m. "Once you get him talking it's hard to shut him off," Lardner said before he learned of Ferrie's death.

### NOT DEPRESSED

The reporter said Ferrie appeared to be neither excessively excited nor depressed, and there was no indication that he might be contemplating suicide.

Dr. Chetta said he had information that Ferrie talked about ending his life two weeks ago. He would not elaborate, except to say the man who said



—Photo by The Times-Picayune  
**DR. NICHOLAS CHETTA**, Orleans Parish coroner, enters his car to depart from the area of the residence where David William Ferrie was found dead Wednesday. Dr. Chetta took charge of the investigation and said he would "have something to say later."

this has a first name of "Joseph."

Garrison said of the man's death, "The apparent suicide of David Ferrie ends the life of a man who, in my judgment, was one of history's most important individuals."

The DA said that "evidence developed by our office has long since confirmed he was involved in events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy."

He said investigators who had conducted the stake-out at Ferrie's apartment had information "which had caused us to become increasingly concerned as our investigation progressed about the possibility of his killing himself."

### DECIDED TO ARREST

"Because of this," he continued, "in a meeting at my house this morning we reached a decision to arrest him early next week—apparently we waited too long."

When asked whether Fer-

rie's death will hinder his investigation, he replied "No comment."

He said his men had noted "extreme nervousness" in Ferrie for the last 10 days. He had been seen "pacing his floor endlessly" and that he had indicated to an investigator that he was thinking about taking his life.

Garrison said Ferrie knew he was the subject of an investigation and had cooperated with his assistants.

When asked whether he will now ask for help from the federal government in the probe, Garrison replied by asking "What would be the purpose of seeking federal aid, to delay the investigation three more years. We've done more in three months with a small staff than the government did in three years with 5,000 men."

The district attorney did say, however, that he will ask Gov. John J. McKeithen for a few more men to aid the investiga-

tion. **'VIRAL ENCEPHALITIS'**  
According to police, Ferrie was discovered dead in bed in his apartment at 11:40 a. m. Ferrie was nude and a bedsheet was pulled over his head. Police questioned an unidentified youth who, one detective

said, found the body. However, the youth said he didn't find the body, didn't know Ferrie and "just happened to wander in."

Ferrie had said Saturday morning that he was suffering from what he called viral encephalitis. He said he had been inside the house "for about three weeks."

Garrison's office immediately joined in the investigation, though this is not usually the case until a coroner's verdict is rendered. Detectives Douglas Ward and Lester Otilio took names of all who stood outside the two-story stucco building — neighbors, curious passers-by, reporters and photographers.

Dr. Chetta arrived on the scene and took over the investigation.

#### FRIEND, CLAIM

Also at the scene were Police Capt. Henry Morris; Lt. Cornelius Drumm, chief of homicide, and Sam Moran, chief investigator for the coroner's office.

A police source said the youth under questioning was a friend of Ferrie and one of his co-workers. He said the youth found the body and notified police. The youth is 24 with sandy blond hair, combed long. He had long sideburns and wore a plaid shirt.

Ferrie lived in an upstairs apartment.

Ferrie's body was taken to the coroner's office about 2 p.m. A police detail was put at the door of the office, and no visitors were allowed inside.

The mystery witness was taken to headquarters by Det. James Alphonse of the homicide division.

Coroner's lab technicians went to work on the case. Bureau of Identification personnel began taking fingerprints and other evidence.

#### PERSONAL EFFECTS

Moran opened Ferrie's personal effects in the outer coroner's office. He got through the wallet and then picked up everything and went into the

privacy of Dr. Chetta's office.

Noted among the effects were a number of identification cards. Apparently, no money was in the wallet. There were pieces of paper with names and phone numbers on them.

In the apartment were found at least 15 pill bottles, some with caps on them and some empty. It was not disclosed what kinds of medicine they represented.

Ferrie ran a private flying service from a coffee shop at

#### New Orleans Lakefront Airport.

"He was always very nice and never got out of line," recalled a waitress who declined to give her name. "He was intelligent and real serious about flying, because that's all he ever talked about."

#### TALKED FREELY

Ferrie talked freely with reporters from both The States-Item and The Times-Picayune last weekend, but he refused to be interviewed on television. One television reporter said this was because he felt he would be "an unsympathetic character."

The former airlines pilot had said Saturday morning that he was told Friday night that he would be indicted by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in regard to the Garrison investigation of the possibility of a plot to kill President Kennedy. Ferrie didn't say who had told him.

#### DENIES OSWALD LINK

He denied any link with Lee Harvey Oswald, President Kennedy's accused assassin. "I did not know Oswald," said Ferrie, who had lived in New Orleans for 15 years.

He told of the circumstances surrounding his arrest in 1963 a few days after the assassination of President Kennedy. According to Ferrie, he and two companions decided that afternoon, Nov. 22, 1963, to drive to Texas on a pleasure trip.

"We went that night to Vinton, La., then to Houston, Galveston, Tex., where we did some goose hunting, and finally back to Alexandria, La.," recalled Ferrie. "I was there I discovered that Garrison and his assistant Frank Klein had broken into my apartment and carted off a lot of things."

Ferrie said he was arrested by Garrison's office as being a fugitive from Texas. After

giving Garrison a minute account of his activities, Ferrie said he was released.

#### GRAND JURY CALL

But Ferrie said he got a call from the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in January, 1967, to appear. As he got to the Criminal Courts building, he was asked to step into the district attorney's office.

Ferrie said Garrison's investigators talked with him extensively about the November week leading up to the murder in Dallas, Tex., and he asked to be allowed to see a transcript he gave the Federal Bureau of Investigation. According to Ferrie, that was the last he heard

from the district attorney's office until his friends started calling him and telling him of recent questioning by the district attorney's office.

Ferrie was cynical about the district attorney's investigation of the supposed plot. Regarding a list of the expenses of the DA's investigators, he said: "Look at this, Miami, that's a good place for the assistant attorneys to go in the winter."

On the probe, itself, he said: "It's a big joke, that's what it is."

#### 'GET A LITTLE WEAW'

The Ferrie apartment was a walkup adjoining a front porch that was piled high with debris, including children's toys. Inside the living room, standing in a corner, was an American flag.

Pill bottles, books and other reading matter were scattered about the living room. Ferrie was barefooted during a recent interview, and as a reporter left him, he said, "You don't mind if I lie

down; I get a little weak."

In 1961, Ferrie was booked in Jefferson Parish with committing a crime against nature and indecent behavior with juveniles. Both charges were not pressed in 1962, records show.

## Puerto Ricans to Train in La.

A group of 103 Puerto Rican National Guardsmen will arrive here at 11 a. m. Thursday en route to Fort Polk for a required six months of active duty training.

They will be met by a representative from the office of State Adjutant Gen. Erbon W. Wise and escorted to chartered buses to complete their journey. Gen. Wise said that Brig. Gen. Salvador T. Reig, the adjutant general of Puerto Rico, had requested his assistance in making sure the guardsmen will get to Fort Polk.

THURSDAY MORNING.

### *House Where Ferrie's Body Was Found*



**DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE** was found dead Wednesday in the bedroom off the upper front porch of this two-story stucco home at

3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy. The body was discovered in bed by a youth at 11:40 a. m.

—Photo by The Times-Picayune.