

JEK PROBE KEY

FOUND DEAD

FIGURE

EXTRA

list.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 22 (AP)—David W. Ferrie, a central figure in Atty. Jim Garrison's current investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, was found dead in his bed today. He was nude, and a bedsheet was pulled over his head.

Only last Saturday Ferrie had told the New Orleans States-Item that the district attorney was investigating him because "supposedly I have been pegged as the getaway pilot in an elaborate plot to kill Kennedy." Ferrie called Garrison's probe "a big joke."

Police said it was not immediately determined whether Ferrie's death was murder, suicide or resulted from natural causes. They said a quantity of pills was found near the body.

Detectives questioned a youth who reportedly found the body. He appeared

to be about 23, with sandy blond hair combed long, with full sideburns. A policeman said the youth was a friend of Ferrie and one of his co-workers.

It was learned that the district attorney's office had two men maintaining surveillance of Ferrie's apartment last November.

Ferrie was arrested shortly after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of Kennedy and questioned. He was released after the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas.

PROFESSIONAL PILOT

Ferrie operated a flying service here and was a private investigator.

He said Saturday he and two friends drove to Texas the day of the assassination.

"We went to Houston, Galveston and then back to Alexandria, La.," Ferrie was quoted as saying.

When he returned to New Orleans, he said, he was questioned at length by the district attorney's office.

Ferrie said he was called into the district attorney's office last November and asked about his activities the week Kennedy was shot.

Garrison began his investigation into the assassination last October. He said Saturday he expects to prove a conspiracy was hatched here and that it led to the assassination in Dallas. Arrests will be made and convictions obtained, Garrison said.

Ferrie said in an interview Saturday that while he was in Texas in 1963, 13 law officers, including Garrison, entered his home and carted off books, photographs and personal belongings.

"They took a substantial amount of my property," he said.

BOOKED AS FUGITIVE

Ferrie said he went to the

district attorney's office and was booked as a fugitive from Texas. He said he asked to be interviewed by the FBI. After that interview the FBI questioned him. He was released.

Garrison said his investigation has been seriously impaired by disclosure of the investigation last Friday. As a result, he said, arrests would be months away.

Garrison "could not be

(Cont. on Page 16, Col. 1-2)



—Associated Press Wirephoto

'IT MAY BE A CASE OF SUICIDE'
David Ferrie, quizzed in JFK killing, found dead

JFK 'Plot' Figure Found Dead in Bed

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reached immediately for comment on Ferrie's death.

Pending further investigation, the official police report listed Ferrie's death as unclassified.

When he was brought in for questioning last November, Ferrie said he asked to see a copy of his interview

with the FBI. He said he did not see a copy and was released.

In his questioning last November, Ferrie said, Chief Investigator Louis Ivon told him that the district attorney's office had "positively uncovered a plot in New Orleans to assassinate Kennedy."

Ferrie said the FBI first became interested in him after a man identified as Ed Voble of New Orleans reported he served with Oswald in a Civil Air Patrol unit commanded by Ferrie.

Actually, Ferrie said, Voble was in the Molsant Squadron and "I was in the Lakefront Squadron." Ferrie said he never knew Oswald, identified by the Warren Commission as the man who shot Kennedy.

Ferrie said he doubted the existence of a conspiracy.

"My assessment of Oswald is that he would be incapable of conspiring because he would be incapable of any interpersonal relationship, especially anything as delicate as a conspiracy to kill," Ferrie said.

Ferrie is listed in the city directory as a psychologist.

PLOT 'TIPSTER' FEARS FOR HIS LIFE

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 22 (UPI)—A one-time private investigator who told Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison he knew of five persons implicated in a plot to kill President Kennedy said Tuesday he feared for his life and wanted police protection.

David F. Lewis, 26, who knew presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963, said the persons involved in the conspiracy were "very vicious and capable of anything. If they're capable of assassinating a United States President, they would not hesitate in getting rid of any of the witnesses."

Lewis, a skinny, dark-

haired man who said he relayed his knowledge of the alleged conspiracy to Garrison, now works as a freight agent for a bus line.

He said he met with Oswald several times in New Orleans in the six months before the assassination, but would not divulge what he and Oswald discussed. He said Garrison's investigation into a possible conspiracy concerning the assassination should be taken seriously.

"This investigation definitely is not a hoax on anyone's part. There was a plot. I know about it. And I know the people who were involved."

JFK Plot: Dead Man

PENSACOLA, Fla., Feb. 22 (AP)—The county solicitor was asked today to exhume the body of a man said by his brother to have believed he was being harassed by "agents" following the assassination of President Kennedy.

The man, Thomas Henry Killam, died March 17, 1964, amid shattered glass on a downtown Pensacola street.

The Pensacola News-

Journal said Killam was married to a stripper who worked for Jack Ruby in Dallas. The paper also said that Killam worked as a house painter with a man named Jack Carter, who had roomed in Dallas at one time with Lee Harvey Oswald.

Killam's brother, Earl, asked the solicitor to exhume the body to determine the cause of death.

Police listed the death as

a probable suicide, but the coroner had called the death accidental, the newspaper said.

NECK GASH

The coroner, Dr. A. H. Northrup, said his records showed Killam suffered "a long, three-inch-deep laceration over the lower left side of the neck. Apparently sustained deep laceration in throat when he fell through a plate glass window," the newspaper said.

Solicitor Carl Harper said he took a statement from Killam this morning and would decide after an investigation whether to exhume the body. He would not discuss the statement or his planned investigation.

Earl Killam was quoted as saying his brother told him that "agents" and "plotters" visited him repeatedly after the assassination, when the brother

Enters the Case

was living in Dallas while his wife worked for Ruby as a stripper, the newspaper said.

Finally, the newspaper quoted the brother, Thomas Killam left Texas and returned to Pensacola to live with his mother.

But he still complained of being constantly questioned by the "agents" about the presidential assassination, the brother

was quoted as saying.

Killam moved to Tampa and worked for three months, but still felt that he was being harassed by the "agents," the brother's story continued.

'I'M DEAD MAN'

Killam returned to Pensacola in the middle of March, the newspaper said, and two days before he was found dead he told his brother:

"I'm a dead man. I've

run as far as I'm going to run."

The newspaper said Killam never identified the "agents" specifically.

Harper said he had not heard of any controversy surrounding the Killam death until he was contacted by reporter Eddie Narker of the Pensacola newspaper last night.

Harper said he had not talked to district attorney

James Garrison of New Orleans, but planned to talk to him as part of his investigation.

Thomas Killam's wife, Wanda, had been associated with Ruby for 15 years, the brother was reported as saying.

Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald, the man the Warren Commission said killed President Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.