

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 23 (UPI)

— Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison trained his sights today on an apparent major inconsistency in the death hour of a man he planned to arrest in a probe of President Kennedy's assassination.

David W. Ferrie, 49, former Eastern Airlines pilot, was found dead in his apartment at 11:40 a.m. yesterday, nude in bed, a sheet pulled over his head.

Dr. Nicholas Chetta, New Orleans coroner, said rigor mortis had set in and death must have come sometime Tuesday evening.

But George Lardner, a reporter for the Washington Post, said he went to Mr. Ferrie's apartment about midnight and stayed until 4 a. m. yesterday interviewing him.

Mr. Lardner reported Mr. Ferrie told him he believed Oswald acted alone in the assassination.

"Ferrie seemed in good spirits, not like a man about to kill himself," Mr. Lardner wrote.

Dr. Chetta said Mr. Ferrie's death had to occur before 4 a.m., but Mr. Lardner insisted he had visited with Mr. Ferrie until that hour.

Mr. Garrison said the time of death estimated by the coroner, and the time that Mr. Lardner reported, was a major inconsistency in the case and was "one of the mysteries we don't understand."

Dr. Chetta said death resulted from a blood vessel rupture at the base of the brain. Mr. Garrison called it suicide.

A bottle of pills was found alongside Mr. Ferrie's body along with an unsigned note calling the world a "loathsome" place that would be sweet for him to leave.

Mr. Garrison described the dead man as "one of history's most important individuals" and said he was "involved in events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy."

Mr. Garrison announced dramatically he now was not even accepting the theory that

Kennedy 'Plot' Informer Vanishes

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 23 (UPI)

— A man fearing for his life because he told Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison names of people in an alleged plot on President Kennedy's life had dropped out of sight today.

David Lewis, 26, was a private investigator who came in contact with Lee Harvey Oswald several times during Oswald's six-month 1963 stay in New Orleans.

Mr. Lewis, his wife and four children, could not be found in the wake of the apparent suicide yesterday of David W. Ferrie.

Mr. Lewis, when Mr. Garrison's controversial investigation erupted last week, was employed as a shipping agent at a bus line.

Fellow workers said they did not know the whereabouts of Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Garrison said his staff was not large enough to provide protection to the principals of the investigation.

Mr. Lewis said Monday he feared for his life. He was the one who told the press that he had given Mr. Garrison names of four or five persons he knew to be linked in what he felt was conspiracy to assassinate Mr. Kennedy.

Lee Harvey Oswald killed Mr. Kennedy in 1963.

Mr. Garrison announced his office had been investigating for three months a conspiracy to kill Mr. Kennedy hatched in New Orleans.

Mr. Ferrie's name was mentioned in the Warren Commission report and he was questioned here shortly after the assassination. He came under investigation again in Mr. Garrison's probe.

Mr. Ferrie said in a copyrighted interview Saturday with the New Orleans States-Item he was afraid he was suspected of being a "getaway pilot in an elaborate plot" to kill Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. Garrison said he had

PAGE 2

News 2/23/67

The Kennedy

Suspect Found Dead in New Orleans Circumstances; D. A. Rejects 'Theory'

feared Mr. Ferrie might commit suicide.

"Because of this . . . we had reached a decision to arrest him early next week," Mr. Garrison said. "Apparently we waited too long."

Mr. Ferrie was never connected directly with the assassination until Mr. Garrison made his announcement.