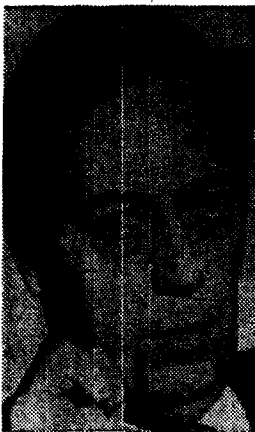


Group in New Orleans Bankrolls JFK Probe



United Press International Telephoto

JIM GARRISON

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 25 (UPI)—A businessmen's group set up to bankroll the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination is led by two men with ties to the administration of Gov. John McKeithen.

The group, called "Truth and Consequences," announced yesterday in New Orleans that its purpose was to raise money to finance the investigation by District Attorney Jim Garrison. The purpose of the money-raising group was to keep Garrison's investigation out of public scrutiny.

Garrison has been mentioned as a possible running mate for McKeithen in this year's coming election.

Garrison met with the group yesterday. He said he had to find a way to pay his investigative bills. He said public funds could be traced by the news media.

Major sponsors of the meeting were Willard Robertson, a foreign car importer and major contributor to McKeithen's campaign funds, and Cecil Shilstone, who operates a testing firm that holds the state contract for laboratory analysis of samples from race horses on state-licensed tracks.

Robertson also has received a state appointment from McKeithen, to the Mississippi River Bridge Authority.

During McKeithen's successful campaign for a constitutional amendment that will allow him to seek a second term in the coming election this year, Shilstone stumped the state with a state police officer as a driver, on behalf of the amendment.

Garrison said yesterday his office has "solved" the case "beyond the shadow of a doubt."

He also said arrests in the case could take up to 30 or 40 years," but said later this remark may have been misleading.

Garrison repeated his claim that a plot to assassinate President Kennedy originated here. He said arrests will be made but not soon because premature publicity could lead to deaths of persons involved in the case.

"There was a plot . . . several plots," Garrison said.

Garrison maintains the death Wednesday of David W. Ferrie was a suicide connected with the investigation.

Garrison said his office has an investigation timetable, "but if I tell you what it is, the man we have down the line may kill himself, to be blunt about it."