

Garrison Bans T-P Reporter



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.

JUST BEFORE ENTERING Patio Room I in the Fontainebleau Motor Hotel, a surprised-looking District Attorney Jim Garrison eyes Times-Picayune reporter Joe Darby (back to camera, foreground) who has just asked whether he would be permitted to attend the Monday afternoon press confer-

ence. Garrison said, "No, I'll call off the press conference," but moments later an investigator for Garrison shoved Darby from the room. Others are unidentified in this picture except for Assistant D.A. Andrew J. Sciambra, at right.

Confident He Can Show JFK Killing Was Plotted--DA

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Believes No Foreign Nation Involved--Garrison

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison said Monday he is quite confident he can prove there was a conspiracy behind the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. But Garrison said arrests "are most certain nly months away."

The district attorney of Orleans Parish, appearing at a crowded news conference, reiterated that his investigation into the assassination has made progress. He began his probe last October.

"There is no question there will be arrests, charges and convictions," he said.

But he said premature disclosure of the probe by New Orleans newspapers has serious-

ly hampered the investigation.
NO INTERVIEWS

"After this, I am not going to give out interviews," he said. "We don't want publicity."

Garrison said arrests of those he believes conspired to kill the late President "probably were just a few weeks away until the disclosures by the local newspapers. Now they are most certain months away."

Asked if he thought any foreign country or any official was involved in the assassination, Garrison said, "No."

The district attorney, waving a long green cigar, said he expects to obtain convictions for conspiring to kill Kennedy and for being accessories after the

fact—that is, "having substantial knowledge and withholding information."

BARS N.O. REPORTERS

Emphasizing his displeasure with the two New Orleans newspapers, he barred their reporters from the news conference, held at a local motel.

Garrison's probe, first reported last Friday, has drawn worldwide attention. It has been received with both praise and skepticism.

In Washington, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., called for the Warren Commission to reopen its investigation of the assassination to determine if Lee Harvey Oswald had Communist conspirators. The commission, in its report, named Oswald as the slayer and said it found no evidence of a plot.

WILL SHOW PLOT--DA

Garrison has said he has no intention of turning his information over to the Warren Commission or other federal agencies. He said he will show the conspiracy was plotted in New

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 2, Col. 1

CONFIDENT HE CAN SHOW PLOT--DA

Continued from Page 1

Orleans, where Oswald lived during the summer of 1963.

In Dallas, Asst. Dist. Atty. Bill Alexander said he places little faith in Garrison's claim a plot existed and was hatched in New Orleans. Kennedy was shot fatally in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

"The Warren report is unsuccessful and not complete," Garrison told the news conference.

Asked to pinpoint any sections of the Warren report that were shaky, he said: "There is too much information about some areas, and not enough about others."

Garrison said he has set up "a small task force of unusually competent police officers, assistant district attorneys and a private detective" to handle the investigation. "We have made progress. Arrests will be made and convictions will be obtained."

SOME CONTRIBUTIONS

The remainder of the investigation, he said, will be financed from money borrowed from banks and "some contributions I think I will receive."

Garrison said this would prevent New Orleans newspapers from checking expense vouchers in the clerk's office and determining where his investigators are going. The States-Item last week published records which showed his office has spent over \$8,000 to date on its investigation.

T-P REPORTED BARRED

When reporter Joe Darby of The Times-Picayune attempted to enter the room at the start of the press conference, his way

was barred. Garrison shouted, "remove 'em by force. Throw them out out if necessary."

The district attorney spent better than half of the hour-long news conference explaining his reasons for excluding the two local newspapers. He said questioning of his witnesses by the two newspapers caused a serious setback to his investigation.

"We can't chance a risk to our witnesses," he said. "I am not trying to punish them (the newspapers) . . . I can't take any further risks."

Garrison said a talk he had last fall with Sen. Russell Long, D-La., touched off the investigation. He said the Senate majority leader talked about "the incongruity of getting all those shots off in the sequence concluded (by the Warren Report) . . . that made me raise questions of my own."

Louisiana Gov. John McKeithen said he has know of the Garrison investigation since Christmas. McKeithen said if Garrison should ask for any cooperation from the state, it would be provided.

"This is our fifth year in office and we've never lost a murder case," Garrison said. "And I intend to keep it that way."

Garrison Bars T-P, States Reporters

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison held a press conference Monday afternoon in Patio Room 1 of the Fontainebleau Motor Hotel but reporters and photogra-

phers from The Times-Picayune and New Orleans States-Item were barred.

The press conference had been called by Garrison for what was thought would be announcements of further developments into his investigation of an alleged plot hatched in New Orleans in connection with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Wire service reporters, New Orleans television newsmen and reporters representing news agencies all over the nation and from Europe attended.

Kept out were reporters Joe Darby and Bob Ussery of The Times-Picayune and Rosemary James and Bert Hyde of the States-Item and photographers Mike Bates and Robert Steiner.

As Garrison walked up the corridor toward the room, Darby asked him if he would be allowed to attend the press conference and Garrison said no. He was then asked if the reporter would be barred by force and the DA said "No, I'll just call off the press conference."

SHOVED OUTSIDE

However, when Darby entered the room, an unidentified aide of the DA told him to leave. When the reporter said he would not, the aide shoved him out the door into the corridor.

Garrison had earlier called out-of-town newsmen to his office and informed them of the conference. He asked them not to tell the local newspapers.

Mrs. James asked William Guryvich of the DA's staff if she would be barred from the conference.

"Yes, Mr. Garrison does not want any representative of local newspapers at this press conference," he answered.

In other developments a Parish Prison inmate named in the investigation said Monday he does not feel his life is in danger, although Garrison had said newspaper publicity placed him in danger.

Miguel Torres, in jail on a burglary count, told Criminal Sheriff Louis Heyd he didn't feel it was necessary that he be placed in a private cell for his protection.

LIVED NEAR OSWALD

Torres has declined to talk to

newsmen.

The man, a Cuban, lived near presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald on Magazine st. in 1963.

Garrison had said earlier that publicity had endangered the lives of witnesses in the case. Heyd said Monday he will ask the DA for specific details about threats to principals in the case.

Ruby Ex-Attorney Calls for Inquiry

DETROIT (AP) — Sol A. Dann of Detroit, former attorney for Jack Ruby, asked Monday for an immediate inquiry by a federal or Louisiana grand jury into whether a plan was developed in New Orleans which culminated in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Such a plan was reported Saturday by New Orleans Dist.

Atty. Jim Garrison, who said, "There were other people besides Lee Harvey Oswald involved."

COMMISSION FINDING

The Warren Commission found that Oswald was the assassin and said it found no credible evidence that others were involved.

Ruby was the convicted killer of Oswald, shot down as television cameras were focused on his transfer from one Dallas, Tex., jail to another two days after Kennedy was slain.

Ruby died last month of cancer while appealing his murder conviction. Until the end he insisted no conspiracy existed and he did not know Oswald. Relatives said that opinions of conspiracy held by some people preyed on Ruby's mind.

Dann wired Garrison Monday: "Respectfully request you immediately arrange to impanel federal or Louisiana special grand jury to inquire into any information or evidence that persons other than Oswald were guilty of misprision or conspiracy in connection with President Kennedy's assassination."

MESSAGE TO GREMILLION

Dann sent an identical telegram to Louisiana Atty. Gen. Jack P. Gremillion, except that it asked inquiry into "Jim Garrison's information or evidence."

Garrison said Saturday in New Orleans that others were involved besides Oswald and that "New Orleans was a factor in the planning beyond doubt."

Dann was brought into the Ruby case by Ruby and his relatives, including his brother, Earl Ruby of Detroit, months after Jack Ruby's on.

Oswald lived in New Orleans for six months shortly before the Dallas assassination Nov. 22, 1963.