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JFK 'Plot'

Business Sponsors Probe

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NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 24

(AP)—A "conspiracy investigation" fund has been created by New Orleans businessmen to underwrite Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's pledge to prove there was a conspiracy in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"It would amount to a blank check that would pay the cost of the investigation for months and even years," one of the businessmen sponsors said. "We are prepared to back Jim Garrison all the way ... five years if necessary."

Garrison said it might be months rather than weeks before arrests could be made.

He also said he would go to banks, if necessary, to personally borrow money to finance the investigation.

While there have been a number of critics of the Warren report, Garrison is the first public official with power to investigate to say there was a conspiracy.

Convinced that Garrison is right and will produce results if his investigation is free of any money obstacles, various New Orleans businessmen pledged to finance the investigation.

The Associated Press learned that pledges have been made. The prime mover behind the fund raising is Joseph M. Rault Jr., president of Rault Petroleum Corp. of New Orleans.

Rault confirmed the fund's existence, but declined to give any dollar amount.