

Informant Says Garrison Allies Tried Bribery on His Testimony

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NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 20—A Government informant, Pershing O. Gervais, testified in United States District Court here today that an attorney allegedly supplied to him by District Attorney Jim Garrison, the defendant in a bribery case here, had talked with Mr. Garrison's lawyers about letting them "write the script" for the trial in exchange for \$50,000.

The District Attorney is accused of accepting bribes to protest illegal pinball machine gambling. Other defendants in the case are two pinball machine owners, John Aruns Callery and Robert E. Nims. There were originally 10 defendants in the case. Three pleaded guilty.

Mr. Gervais said the alleged fee took place in the office of his attorney, Russell Schonekas, with "various members of the defense counsel" there.

"I refused. I certainly wasn't going to jail for \$25,000," he said, explaining that he did not wish to be charged with perjury and that his lawyer would have gotten \$25,000.

Mr. Gervais also testified that Guy Johnson, an attorney for another defendant in the case who pleaded guilty, offered \$10,000 for the Government tapes that allegedly prove that Mr. Garrison accepted the bribe money. Mr. Gervais said he refused that offer also.

Mr. Gervais, testifying for the second day, had not been brought into the case until the

prosecution's rebuttal. Judge Herbert Christenberry allowed him to testify over the objections of Mr. Garrison, on ground that his testimony was needed to clear up a question regarding the integrity of the Government tapes.

After delivering marked bribe money to Mr. Garrison and helping Internal Revenue Service agents secure the tape recordings, Mr. Gervais testified, he went to Vancouver, B. C., to work for General Motors. Mr. Gervais said he soon became "disenchanted" with his job as traffic manager for General Motors at a salary of \$18,000 a year. He also received \$4,000 a year from the Justice Department, he said.

He said he came back to New Orleans after telling a television reporter that "the Government's total case against Jim Garrison is a fraud." He testified today that this was "an irresponsible statement" and that his current statements were "correct, absolutely truthful."

"This is a chance for a rebirth for me," he said. "I am forever clean."

Joel Lanoux, an Internal Revenue Service agent, testified today that the tapes described as fraudulent by Dr. Louis Gerstman, professor of psychology and speech and hearing sciences at City University of New York, were exactly as recorded the night of Feb. 25, 1971. Mr. Lanoux was one of the agents stationed outside Mr. Garrison's house with monitoring and recording equipment to pick up the conversation between Mr. Garrison and Mr. Gervais.

The case is expected to conclude tomorrow.