

# A WITNESS SAYS HE PAID GARRISON

Trial Hears Testimony That  
Bribe Money Was Delivered

9-20-75  
p. 21  
Special to The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 19 —

A Government informant, Pershing O. Gervais, testified in Federal District Court today that he had over a period of about eight years delivered bribe money to District Attorney Jim Garrison.

Testifying during the Government's rebuttal after the District Attorney had closed his defense earlier today, Mr. Gervais described his participation in helping Internal Revenue Service agents secure recordings of conversations allegedly proving Mr. Garrison's acceptance of bribe money.

United States Attorney Gerald Gallinghouse is attempting to prove that Garrison accepted \$4,000 in bribe money to protect illegal pinball machine gambling. Other defendants in the case are pinball machine owners John Aruns Callery and Robert E. Nims.

Mr. Garrison made several objections to Mr. Gervais's testimony on grounds that he should have been brought into the case earlier. Judge Herbert Christenberry overruled Mr. Garrison's objections saying that Mr. Gervais's testimony was necessary because the validity and integrity of the Government tape recordings had been challenged.

#### New York Professor

Judge Christenberry was referring to testimony by Dr. Louis Gersman, professor of psychology and speech and hearing sciences at City University of New York whose id in court yesterday that he was "99.9 per cent" certain that the District Attorney's voice had been spliced into portions of the Government tape recording.

The tape in question, played in court by the prosecution earlier in the trial, allegedly records a conversation between Mr. Garrison and Mr. Gervais with noises made by Mr. Garrison's children playing in the background, Dr. Gersman con-

tends that he detects the sound of "clicks" indicating splicing and a significant difference in frequency range between portions of the tape.

Confusion arose over the tape yesterday when it was brought out that the tape that Dr. Gersman studied in his laboratory and on which he had found evidence of fraud was what the prosecution described as a "fourth generation" copy of the original government tape and that in addition the copy had been accidentally damaged when it was played by the prosecution after court adjourned last Friday.

Mr. Gervais testified that he had delivered about \$1,500 a month, less a 10 per cent cut for himself, in bribe money to the District Attorney from about 1962 to 1970. The bribe money was allegedly from pinball machine owners so that Garrison would "do nothing" about prosecuting pinball gambling cases.

Mr. Garrison began his defense last week by attacking the credibility of Mr. Gervais. At one time the District Attorney's chief investigator and close friend, Mr. Gervais resigned as chief investigator in 1965 during Mr. Garrison's campaign for re-election after the District Attorney's opponent indicated that the record and character of Mr. Gervais would be a campaign issue. Prior to testifying, Mr. Gervais was granted immunity from prosecution by Judge Christenberry.