

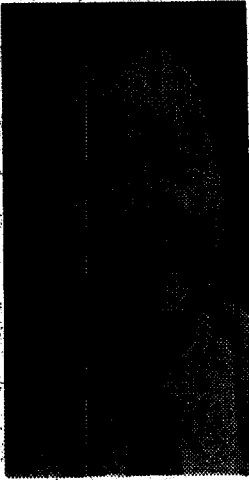
BRIBE-CASE JURY ACQUITS GARRISON

He Sees Vindication of His
Charge of a Frame-Up

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 27 (AP)—District Attorney Jim Garrison was acquitted by a federal jury today of charges of taking bribes to protect gambling interests.

Mr. Garrison called the acquittal a vindication of his assertion that he had been framed as retribution for insisting that the assassination of President Kennedy was a conspiracy involving the "warfare sector of the United States Government."

United States Gerald Gallingshouse, saying the prosecution



United Press International

Jim Garrison leaving court
in New Orleans.

was stunned by the verdict, said Mr. Garrison's assertion was "ridiculous and ludicrous and he knows it."

The jury of nine men and three women deliberated for 15 hours after a six-week trial in which Mr. Garrison used recesses and lunch breaks to campaign for re-election to a fourth term.

Two Others Acquitted

Two other men tried with

Mr. Garrison—John A. Canery, 33 years old, and Robert Nims, 45, executives of a pinball machine company—were also acquitted.

Mr. Garrison acted as his own defense lawyer after his two lawyers withdrew, citing differences in opinion over how the defense should be conducted. However, they were among the spectators during the trial and rejoined Mr. Garrison at the defense table before the verdict was read.

The tactic put Mr. Garrison before the jury at his persuasive best without forcing him to take the witness stand and be cross-examined.

Criticism Cited

Afterward, in a news conference, Mr. Garrison said: "They [the jury] recognized a Government attempt to accomplish retribution against an individual who has frequently criticized the Federal Government."

He said the case had been the creature of what he called "the warfare sector of the United States Government which was back of the murder of John F. Kennedy."

Mr. Gallingshouse said of the verdict, "We thought we had an airtight case."

The Government's case was based on 52 tape recordings, which prosecutors said had been made secretly. Some were said to be recordings of actual bribery payoffs by an informer, Parahing Gervais, a onetime friend and assistant of Mr. Garrison.

Other Names

On one of the payoffs Mr. Gervais had marked money, which agents said had been used by Mr. Garrison to pay a hotel bill.

As an offshoot of the case, Mr. Gervais appeared today before a federal grand jury investigating other names brought up on the tapes. He said he would "tell all he knows about criminal activity in the New Orleans area," Federal officials said.

Originally, 10 men were under indictment in the case. The list included two former police officers and five pinball company executives. The others either entered guilty pleas or got separate trials.