

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: JAMES A. GARRISON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

DATE: March 28, 1969

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Bishop
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

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Former Inspector H. Lynn Edwards, who is now employed by the American Bar Association (ABA) in its Washington Office, called Inspector Jack E. Herington relative to ABA action against Garrison. He said that ABA President William T. Gossett is insistent that the ABA take some action against Garrison and has turned the matter over to the Criminal Law Section's Committee on Abuse of Process. This Committee has made inquiry and determined that the New Orleans Bar Association can take no action since Garrison is not a member. The Louisiana Bar Association says it can take no action since Garrison is an elected official and the only disciplinary action against him would be through channels of impeachment. (This seems to be refusal to face the issue since Garrison is also an attorney and certainly the Louisiana Bar Association could take some action for his atrocious conduct to disbar or officially censure him.)

Edwards stated that he had been contacted in an attempt to develop lead material for the ABA to use in building a case to at least censure Garrison and possibly take more drastic action. He asked if the FBI could be of assistance. Herington told Edwards that, as he was aware, our policy had been to stay completely clear of the Garrison mess and that there was certainly no reason for us to get involved in it at this point, even on behalf of the ABA. Edwards said that he understood but hoped that there was some public source information we could direct him to which would be available in any event to him but would save him research time. We do have such material which includes a lengthy analysis of Garrison's activities in "The New Yorker" of 7-13-68 written by Edward J. Epstein; an article in the 5-6-67 "Saturday Evening Post" entitled "Rush to Judgment in New Orleans," by James Phelan; and a column by "Chicago Tribune" writer Russell Freeburg published 2-29-67 dealing with Garrison's mental problems causing his discharge from the Army. These are all purely public source materials available to Edwards at almost any public library but they do contain a considerable amount of very valuable lead material which could be followed up by the ABA in its inquiry. Because of the nature of this material, there would be no embarrassment to the FBI.

RECOMMENDATION: That Inspector Herington be authorized to advise Edwards of the material set forth above.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

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