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Around the Nation

Per 3/27/74 Tax Case

Garrison Found Innocent in

NEW ORLEANS—New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison was found innocent of income tax evasion charges yesterday by a U.S. District Court jury.

Garrison, the controversial prosecutor who gained national attention with his probe of the assassination of President Kennedy, had been accused of failing to report \$60,000 in income for the years 1966-67—part of it allegedly from bribes.

Last year, Garrison was acquitted of bribery charges. He acted as his own defense attorney in both trials.

The charges carried a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine on each count.

The verdict came five days before Garrison leaves office after 12 years. He was defeated in December shortly after the first trial.

In both cases the government claimed Garrison took bribes to protect illegal gambling on pinball machines. Garrison said he was set up and framed.

Garrison called the tax case "a means of retaliation and retribution to an individual who may be a problem to the government"—a reference to his long-standing complaint that his probe of the Kennedy assassination led to his harassment by the government.