

Secrecy Clouds Assassination Evidence Claim

5-11-2/20/67
NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP)—
A district attorney is keeping secret the details of an investigation he says he is making of the Kennedy assassination. He says federal intervention might only slow him down.

Jim Garrison, betting his investigators can prove a conspiracy in New Orleans led to the death of President John F. Kennedy, spurned a suggestion he give his facts to the U.S. attorney general who could pass them on to President Johnson.

"I am running this investigation, not the President, not the attorney general," said Garrison.

"I'm in charge of the operation and we've made a lot of progress working this way. So I don't propose to make any changes that might result in a slowdown and make us less effective."

FBI Has No Comment

Asked what the Federal Bureau of Investigation is doing about Garrison's probe, an FBI spokesman said, "the only thing I can say regarding any questions about that is, 'no comment.'"

Garrison, 44, has been consistently controversial in his two terms as district attorney.

After New Orleans newspapers broke the story of his investigation on Friday, Garrison said "irresponsible release of so many details" would delay the arrests he said would be forthcoming.

The release of a few details and names, he said, "has now created a problem for us in finding witnesses and getting cooperation from other witnesses and in at least one case has endangered the life of a witness — a possible witness — so that whatever timetable we might have had before is somewhat extended now."

What Does He Know?

Just what does he know at this point?

"Well, I can't sum it up in terms of individuals or what might turn out to be evidence. I can say that we have been in-

vestigating the role of the city of New Orleans in the assassination of President Kennedy, and we have made some progress — I think substantial progress. At least we were making progress until the newspapers revealed a number of details."

The district attorney refused to go into the question of whether only Lee Harvey Oswald was involved in the assassination of Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

"I'd rather not comment on that," Garrison said.

"I will say this, that from our inquiry into the matter, there is no question at all that other individuals were involved in the initial planning in the New Orleans area which culminated in the death of President Kennedy."

(United Press International quoted David Lewis, a former private detective, as saying five persons now in New Orleans were involved with Oswald and he knows their identities.)

Waits Garrison Okay

Lewis, a bus station express

hanquer who worked as a private investigator here in the months before the assassination, said he has the names of the five but would not disclose them until permitted to do so by Garrison.)

In Miami, a Cuban exile, Bernard Torres, 32, who helped the Secret Service guard President Kennedy in Miami four days before the assassination, said Garrison had engaged him to look into the background of some Cubans reported to have been with Oswald shortly before the shooting in Dallas.

Torres said he believes the Warren Commission — which said its exhaustive investigation showed there was no credible evidence that anyone else was implicated — will be proved incomplete.

Torres said he had seen photographs of Oswald with some Cubans reportedly taken in New Orleans shortly before the assassination.

Torres said he had made several trips between Miami and New Orleans in connection with the Garrison investigation and would leave today for New Orleans.

He declined to discuss a report that Oswald had visited Miami to talk with Cubans.

Took Part in Invasion

Nor would he talk about reports that some exiles, angry at Kennedy's failure to take action which might have saved the unsuccessful 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, were talking about killing the President.

Torres was a member of the invasion brigade. He now is military coordinator of its veterans organization, called Brigade 2506.

In San Diego, Melvin Belli, an attorney, said Oswald and Jack Ruby, the man who slew Oswald after Kennedy's death, were in New Orleans at the same time but it was just a coincidence.

Belli, who defended Ruby in his trial for the slaying of Oswald, said he does not believe there was any plot to kill Kennedy.

He added that he knew Ruby had activity in New Orleans and with Cuba, but he was just trying to ingratiate himself with a wealthy Mafia type who was involved in Las Vegas gambling activities."

This was typical of Ruby's efforts to be identified with the wealthy and powerful, Belli said.