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New Orleans DA Says His Investigation Shows Oswald Didn't Act Alone

New Orleans, Feb. 18—(AP)—District Attorney Jim Garrison said today that an investigation by his office has led him to believe that the Warren Commission report was inaccurate in stating that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Garrison told a news conference that his investigation was begun to determine the possibility of an assassination conspiracy in New Orleans, where Oswald once lived, and his investigators have uncovered facts which "are interesting."

Garrison refused to elaborate at the press conference on this latest of numerous challenges of the Warren Commission's findings, which were generally accepted throughout the nation. The commission said it could find no evidence that Oswald did not act alone.

Arrests Predicted

Following the news conference, Garrison told the Associated Press in an interview:

"There were other people besides Lee Harvey Oswald involved," he said. "New Orleans was a factor in the planning beyond a shadow of a doubt. We already have the names of the people in the initial planning."

"We are not wasting our time and we will prove it. Arrests will be made. Charges will be filed and convictions will be obtained."

Garrison said his office had jurisdiction in the case because of a Louisiana law "which forbids conspiracy of any kind."

Report Read

Asked why he started the investigation, Garrison replied:

"Last November I began looking into the question because Oswald had spent six months in New Orleans shortly before the assassination."

"I went through the 26 volumes of the Warren report and there were some questions raised. As a result, I began the investigation. The investigation led to new leads, which we followed out, and other leads were uncovered."

At the news conference earlier,

when asked whether he wanted a new federal investigation, he said:

"There should be several concurrent investigations and the important thing is that the evidence (presumably his) should be evaluated."

Publicity Deplored

His own investigation was disclosed yesterday in the New Orleans States-Item, but Garrison refused to acknowledge it then.

"We were making good progress until the publicity," he said today.

He said that a prisoner in the Orleans Parish Jail now possibly has his life in jeopardy as a result of the publicity given the investigation. He did not name the prisoner.

The States-Item said Miguel Torres, a 26-year-old Cuban who formerly lived only a block from Oswald's last-known New Orleans address, was brought from the Louisiana State Prison at Angola to the Orleans Parish jail on Jan. 30.

Torres, the newspaper account said, "is known to be connected with the DA's investigation."

Another Cuban

The States-Item said today that Garrison's office is seeking a "physically powerful and dangerous" Cuban man who "is believed to be one of a group of Cubans who reportedly hid behind a billboard on the parade route in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963," when the slaying occurred.

Oswald was then slain in a Dallas jail by a nightclub operator, Jack Ruby, who was sentenced to death, but later granted a new trial. He died recently before he could be retried.

The States-Item said the "dan-

gerous" Cuban is now believed to have fled the country.

It also said Garrison and his assistants were in Miami in January hunting for the Cuban and "flashing his picture, taken on a New Orleans street the summer before the assassination while he was distributing 'Fair play for Cuba' pamphlets with

Oswald."

Another Story

The States-Item said today that it had talked with David William Ferrie, part-time private investigator and operator of a local flying service.

It said that Ferrie, who denies knowing Oswald, was interrogated by the district attorney's office after the assassination and also talked then with the Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The newspaper said Ferrie gave it this account:

He was subpoenaed by the Orleans Parish grand jury last November and when he appeared he was told to go to the office of Ray Ward, first assistant to Garrison.

Louis Ivon, (an investigator) and John Volz, a trial assistant, told him there that they wanted a full recounting of all his activities during the week Kennedy was killed.

Ferrie said he couldn't remember. He referred them to a statement he gave the FBI immediately after the assassination.

That was the last he heard until recently when "acquaintances began calling me, saying they had been questioned about me."

Ferrie said he and two friends flew to Texas late in the day of the assassination on a vacation.

"We went to Houston, Galveston, then back to Alexandria, La."

Ford, McCloy Comment

Rep. Gerald K. Ford (R-Mich), who was a member of the Warren Commission, said in Washington "if the district attorney has such information he should transmit it to the U. S. attorney general, whom I assume would transmit it immediately to the President."

In Stamford, Conn., John J. McCloy, another member of the Warren Commission, said, "Let's see what his evidence is. We are always aware that some evidence might turn up in this matter and we know that time is a factor in the favor of someone hunting such evidence."

"We did not say that Oswald acted alone. We said we could find no credible evidence that he acted with anyone else."

McCloy added that the commission investigated Oswald's activities in New Orleans and "the investigation, at least at that time, didn't produce anything. Maybe someone will come forward some day with credible evidence of a conspiracy."