

Post 2/21/67

New Orleans DA Says He Can Prove JFK Plot

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 20 (AP) — District Attorney Jim Garrison said today he is quite confident he can prove there was a conspiracy behind the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. But he said arrests "are most certainly months away."

The District Attorney of Orleans Parish (County), appearing at a crowded news conference, reiterated that his investigation into the assassination has made progress. He began his inquiry last October.

Garrison said arrests of those he believes conspired to kill the late President "probably were just a few weeks away until the disclosures of the investigation by the local newspapers. Now they are most certainly months away."

Asked if he thought any foreign country or any official was involved in the assassination, Garrison said "no."

He said he expects to obtain convictions for conspiring to kill Kennedy and for being accessories after the fact—that is, "having substantial knowledge . . . and withholding information."

Garrison said a talk he had last fall with Sen. Russell Long (D-La.) touched off the investigation. He said the Senate assistant majority leader talked about "the incongruity of getting all those shots off in the sequence concluded (by the Warren report) . . . that made me raise questions of my own."

Emphasizing his displeasure with the two New Orleans newspapers, he barred their reports from the news conference, held at a local motel.

Meanwhile, a onetime private detective, David Lewis, 26, said he observed Oswald several times with at least five men he says Garrison believes conspired in the presidential assassination. Lewis, now employed as a baggage clerk, said he met Oswald casually and not as a result of any investigative work.

In Washington, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), called for the Warren Commission to reopen its investigation of the assassination to determine if Oswald had Communist conspirators.