

# DA Attempts Tighter 'Plot Case Secrecy'

District Attorney Jim Garrison says that, while he is quite confident he will prove the existence of a plot to murder President Kennedy, that arrests in his probe are "months away."

Garrison, at an hour-long press conference yesterday afternoon, said that he is clamping strict secrecy on his investigation and will set up a special fund so he won't have to file public expense vouchers which give a clue to the activities of his investigators.

The district attorney contends there was a conspiracy born in New Orleans which resulted in the assassination of Mr. Kennedy Nov. 22, 1963.

**THE OFFICIAL** report by the Warren Commission said Kennedy was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald — a former New Orleans resident — and that it found no credible evidence anyone else was involved.

The press conference was by special invitation to all interested newsmen except representatives of the States-Item and The Times-Picayune.

Representatives of dozens of newspapers, television companies and wire services were called into a small room in Garrison's office a few at a time and told there would be a press conference at the Fontainebleau Motor Hotel.

They were asked not to reveal this information to other newsmen.

**ALL PRESS** representatives who had been waiting for Garrison since 10 a. m. were asked to sign their names and news affiliations on a sheet of paper about 1:30

p. m.

All of these persons were called into the room except representatives present from the States-Item and The Times-Picayune.

Private Detective William Gurvich, who has been hired by Garrison as a special aid in this investigation, told Mrs. Rosemary James of the States-Item she would be barred.

Other representatives barred from the conference were Bert Hyde of the States-Item, Bob Ussery and Joe Darby of The Times-Picayune and photographers Mike Bates and Robert Steiner.

Garrison said he was displeased with the States-Item for disclosing that he was conducting an investigation.

**IN THE** hour-long conference he revealed no new information of any significance concerning the investigation. One reporter remarked after

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the conference that Garrison gave an "hour-long no comment".

Garrison said that the disclosure of his investigation had put the life of one witness in danger and then said this witness was not very important to the case.

Garrison complained that he was short-staffed. When asked by one reporter present at the conference why he doesn't turn his information over to a federal agency to pursue, Garrison's reply was, "What? And wait three years?"

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

He turned away most questions with "no comment."

**GARRISON'S** investigation has stirred both interest and skepticism.

In Washington yesterday, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., urged that the Warren Commission reopen its investigation.

Detroit attorney for the late Jack Ruby, Sol A. Dann, telegraphed Garrison urging him to arrange for a federal or state grand jury probe. Dann sent a similar letter to state attorney general Jack P. F. Gremillion requesting that an inquiry be made into "Jim Garrison's information or evidence."

Garrison said he has no intention now of turning

over his information to either federal or state officials.

**IN BATON** Rouge, Gov. John J. McKeithen said he will provide state cooperation if Garrison needs it.

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald of Fort Worth, Tex., mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, offered any help she could give to Garrison in his investigation.

Dean A. Andrews Jr., assistant Jefferson Parish district attorney, said he was contacted by a man named Clay Bertrand shortly after the assassination and asked to defend Oswald. The Warren Commission was unable to locate the man identified as Bertrand.