

ORIGINAL ENVOYER

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY GARRISON IS MAN 'OBSESSED BY FEAR OF ASSASSINATION' BY THE SAME FORCES WITHIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT HE SAYS MURDERED PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison is a man "obsessed by fear of assassination" by the same forces within the U.S. government that he says murdered President John F. Kennedy.

The controversial DA has surrounded himself with bodyguards, used public funds in search of national fame, and become completely "irrational" on the subject of the JFK assassination.

These are among the charges hurled at Garrison by Charles R. Ward, his former chief assistant, who resigned in June to oppose his old boss for the DA's job.

"Garrison was in constant fear of assassination from the time he started the Clay Shaw investigation in 1966 until I left the DA's office," Ward said. "He was convinced that the Central Intelligence Agency was out to get him."

Ward accused Garrison of being so preoccupied with prosecuting Shaw as a partner in an alleged federal conspiracy to kill JFK, and with his own fears of assassination, that he neglected a mounting New Orleans crime problem.

"Garrison used the DA's office to gain worldwide publicity for himself," Ward said. "During the Shaw investigation, he used every investigator in the office and eight of the 22 assistant DAs. The office was stripped bare of prosecutors."

"It was at this time that New Orleans gained the distinction of being the murder capital of the U.S., and gambling, narcotics and prostitution were also running rampant."

"Garrison prostituted his office for his own personal gain."

Ward claimed that, during the Clay Shaw trial last spring, Garrison asked an associate to obtain a bullet-proof vest for his use, and even priced a bullet-proof car costing \$12,500.

"He was so bedeviled with fear of assassination during the trial that he moved constantly from one hotel room to another, had special locks and peepholes installed, and was attended at all times by two bodyguards," Ward said.

He added that bodyguards still accompany Garrison wherever he goes and that he keeps police and investigators from the DA's office staked out at his home.

In an exclusive interview with The ENQUIRER on September 14 — his first interview since the Shaw trial — Garrison charged that the JFK assassination was "sponsored" by ele-

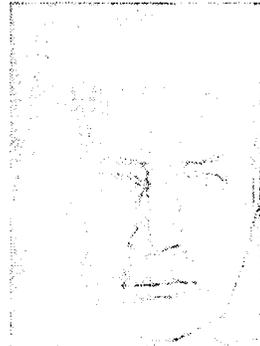
ments of the U.S. government and "accomplished" by the CIA.

Garrison claimed that an "industrial-military complex" wanted President Kennedy out of the way because they feared he would end the cold war.

Ward said that he tried from the first to talk Garrison out of prosecuting Shaw, a wealthy New Orleans businessman, because there was no evidence to implicate him in any assassination conspiracy.

"Garrison brushed me off," Ward said. "I told him that I wanted no part of the assassination probe and pressed him to abandon it. But he was adamant, called me, derisively, 'the undertaker,' and said he had enough evidence to convict Shaw before 12 of his own relatives."

"He was so glib and convincing that I finally came to believe he must know something I didn't. It was be-



GARRISON'S ACCUSER
Charles R. Ward



yond belief that any responsible prosecutor would go into court with such a flimsy case as he appeared to have.

"But all my misgivings returned during the trial and I realized the case was as flimsy as it looked."

"Its collapse was inevitable."

Ward also accused Garrison of diverting money received in forfeited bail bonds to finance the long investigation into the alleged conspiracy.

At one point, he said, the DA was using a total of \$13,000 per month received from three bonding companies in his probe.

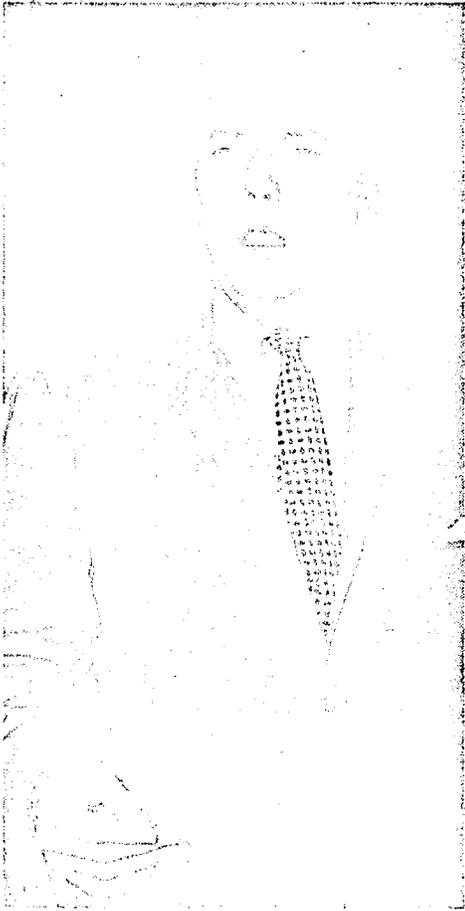
Ward claimed that Garrison used 13 police officers assigned as investigators to the DA's office as his "personal servants."

"He has two chauffeurs, one for the daytime to drive him to the New Or-

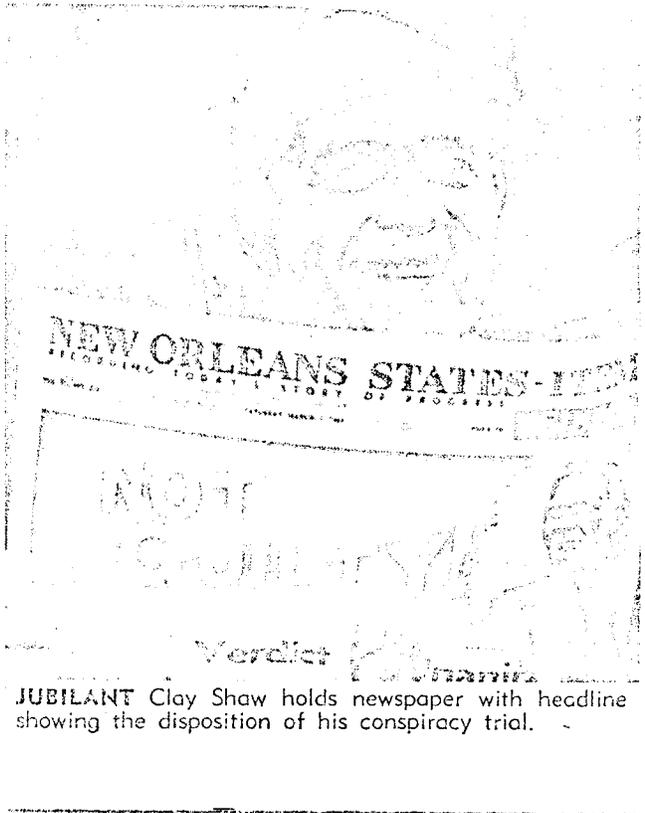
leans Athletic Club, and one for the nighttime, to drive him to the French Quarter (New Orleans' notorious nightclub area).

"Other members of the investigative staff are used for messengers and to deliver

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TERRIFIED: According to Ward, DA Jim Garrison has been in constant fear of assassination since he started the Clay Shaw investigation.



JUBILANT Clay Shaw holds newspaper with headline showing the disposition of his conspiracy trial.

Garrison's press releases."

Ward is campaigning for the November 8 elections on a platform of fighting crime, vice and pornography, and returning the DA's office "to the people." Ward, 37, had been an assistant DA for seven years.

Garrison is hoping the election results will help erase the black eye he suffered when Shaw was acquitted after a trial that became almost a farce for lack of concrete evidence.

The embattled DA, if he is reelected, will undoubtedly continue with his investigation and with the prosecution of Shaw on charges of perjury growing out of last spring's trial.

He still maintains that "Lee Harvey Oswald was just a patsy who never fired a shot."

"Garrison has confided to friends that he believes his reelection will vindicate his tactics in the Shaw case," Ward said.

WILLIAM DICK