

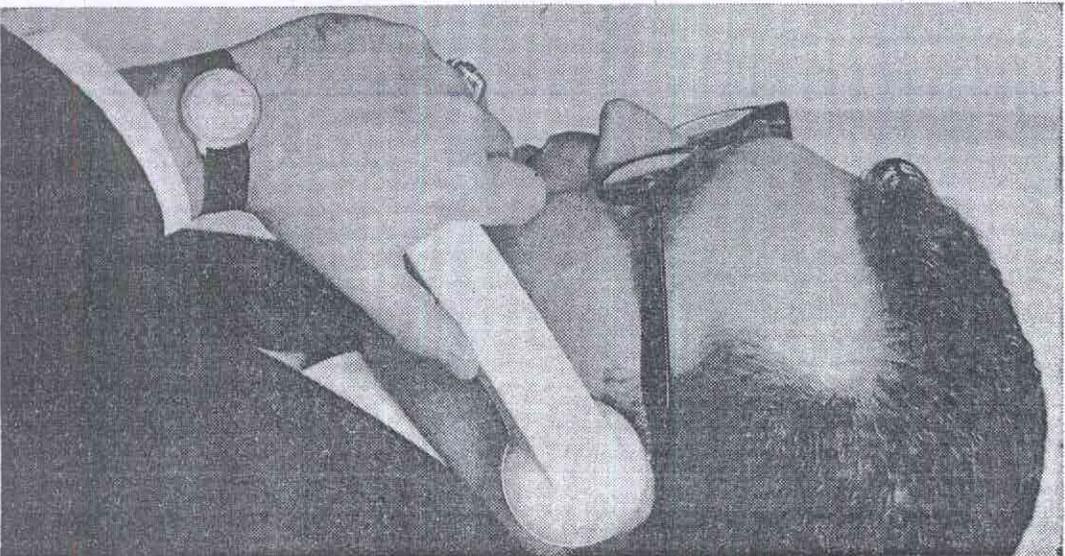
NATIONAL

15¢

ENQUIRER

• Vol. 42, No. 21, January 28, 1968

**'This Could Be the
Break We're Looking
For,' FBI Told Him**
... 'But It's Too Big'



**SUPPRESSED
JEK MURDER
EVIDENCE**

Told for the First Time

By WILLIAM CONDIE, WILLIAM DICK, IAIN CALDER, PEARL TRACHTENBERG and PAUL FEIS

"This could be the break we've been looking for," FBI agent Merle Nelson told insurance salesman Richard Giesbrecht, who had just given him evidence that more than one man had been involved in a plot to kill President Kennedy.

But Giesbrecht, of Winnipeg, Canada, was told by the same agent three months later: "This is too big. Forget the whole thing. We cannot guarantee your safety in Canada."

The FBI man had been called in by Giesbrecht's attorney in February 1964, three months after the assassination, at the height of U.S. investigations to find out exactly who was behind the Dallas slaying.

And he was told how Giesbrecht had overheard two men — one later identified as David Ferrie, the dead pilot named as a conspiracy suspect by New Orleans DA Jim Garrison — discuss problems with their involvement in a plot to assassinate the President.

Agent Nelson sent his report to Washington, where it was passed to the Warren Commission — never to be officially revealed.

Yet today Giesbrecht's evidence is backed up on two major points.

On May 2, 1964, his local newspaper, the Winnipeg Free Press, printed the story. They didn't reveal his identity but they told how he had heard the name of one man involved in the conspiracy — Isaacs.

That was long before any member of the public could have known the names of possible assassins.

But on September 27, almost five months later, the name came up again — in the Warren Commission report.

What the Commission didn't mention was the Giesbrecht evidence.

It found, instead, that Lee Harvey Oswald had been the lone assassin.

Also, last December 18, Louis Ivon, Chief Investigator for Jim Garrison, who is continuing his probe into an alleged Kennedy conspiracy, stated that his office has been trying to locate the same man — Isaacs — in Dallas.

And Garrison, himself, gives major support to Giesbrecht's story. He confirms that Ferrie had been in Winnipeg at the time of the overheard conversation.

To get the full story behind the amazing Giesbrecht evidence, the witness was brought to The ENQUIRER office to tell it in detail.

And now, exclusively for ENQUIRER readers, Giesbrecht reveals just what happened.

His story begins on Feb. 13, 1964. Giesbrecht had gone to the then new \$18 million terminal at Winnipeg International Airport to meet a client, who worked nearby. The appointment was fixed for 3 p.m. but Giesbrecht arrived around 1:45 p.m. to look around the new building.

Then he went to the Horizon Room, a split-level



HAS EVIDENCE: Richard Giesbrecht told the FBI what he knew about the assassination of JFK. Giesbrecht's photo also appears on page one.

set
1

set

uning area and bar, to relax over a drink.

Giesbrecht said: "Two men were sitting at a table right next to me. I didn't pay any special attention to them until I sat down."

The men were facing each other across the table. Giesbrecht had his back to the men, his chair only two feet from one of them.

He took out his appointment book and made notes on his sales approach for the coming insurance deal.

The noise level in the bar was low, with soft background music, punctuated by occasional giggles from a group of women seated 25 feet away.

It didn't prevent Giesbrecht from hearing most of the conversation carried on by the two men behind him. And what he heard made him forget about insurance.

Their general topic was the Kennedy assassination — and one sentence suddenly jogged Giesbrecht's attention.

One of the men, with a Latin American accent, remarked: "Oswald had that black bitch at the party, and she could endure more pain than anyone."

Said Giesbrecht: "I found I had started listening to the conversation pretty sharp.

"The other man replied: 'Yes, he's had that black bitch. And he's been hanging around with Isaacs.'"

Isaacs' name later appeared briefly in the Warren Report.

Giesbrecht said: "The Latin American asked how Isaacs could get mixed up with a psycho like Oswald."

Giesbrecht, almost unable to believe his own ears, strained to catch the conversation.

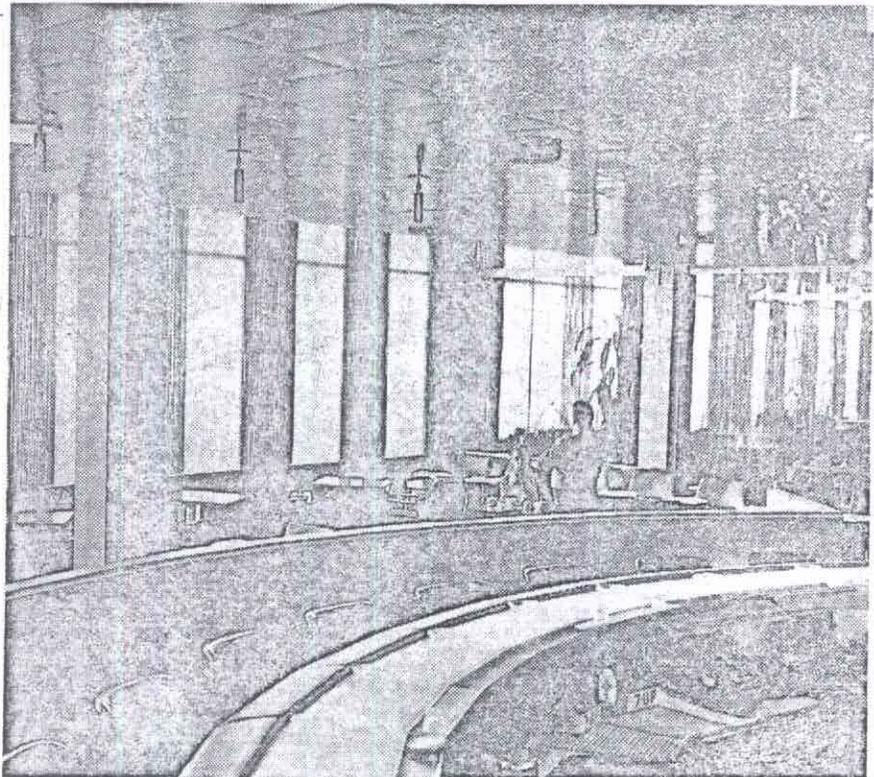
The man sitting back-to-back with him had a defi-

nite Latin American accent, and the other man, sitting opposite the Latin American, seemed to have a clear American accent.

Giesbrecht said: "I can say it was not a New York accent and it wasn't a deep south drawl, but I can't identify it except that it sounded well-educated."

He went on: "The Latin American said that Isaacs had been seen in a film of President Kennedy land-

Page 16



CONVERSATION SITE: Horizon Room lounge, Winnipeg International Airport, where Giesbrecht says he heard two men discuss JFK's assassination.

SUPPRESSED JFK

'This Could Be the Break We're Agent... 'But It's Too Big'

The amazing story of Richard Giesbrecht has never been told in the U.S. until now. Early in 1964, Giesbrecht, a 35-year-old Canadian insurance salesman, overheard a conversation which proved Oswald had not acted alone in the Kennedy assassination. But this fantastic evidence, passed to an FBI agent, ended up in secret Washington files. And the only publicity given was in two Canadian publications — a local daily paper, the Winnipeg Free Press, and later Maclean's, a leading monthly magazine.

Now the story that's too big to be kept quiet is being told at last. The ENQUIRER flew Giesbrecht from Winnipeg to the U.S. on Thanksgiving Day, November 23. And for two days reporters quizzed and questioned him on every detail. Investigators also double-checked with the FBI, Jim Garrison's office and many other sources. This is the exciting result, exclusively for ENQUIRER readers.

MURDER EVIDENCE

'Looking for,' Said FBI

ing at an airport in Texas. I couldn't catch all that was said because of the way the men were talking but both men sounded very disturbed and upset at this

"Apparently Isaacs should have been in a different place altogether. And the two men seemed to feel that because Isaacs had been seen in the film with Kennedy, and was known to have been a friend of Oswald's and had been to parties with Oswald, that even if they found Oswald was the lone assassin, the investigation wouldn't stop.

"Then they got back to discussing that 'psycho' Oswald, and his association with Isaacs. One of them said Isaacs should never have gone as far as he did with a person like Oswald.

"They seemed to regard Oswald as a parasite of their group and the American said that Isaacs had just let Oswald do his dirty work for him.

"My impression was that the 'dirty work' was the assassination.

"It seems Isaacs should have been one of the assassins but had chickened out and let Oswald do it."

Giesbrecht, who guessed both men were homosexuals because of effeminate voices, was making notes and jottings on his appointment book.

He said: "Then I heard a man say that as soon as a Hoffman or Hochman — I'm not sure which — got in touch with Isaacs, they'd find out exactly what took place. They didn't make it clear who this Hoffman or Hochman was."

"The two men went on to discuss a car. It seemed important and this was another thing Hoffman or Hochman was going to check into. He wanted to make sure 'it would be destroyed.'"

"The car apparently was at the assassination scene.

"They seemed confident that this would be taken care of by Hoffman . . . that his job was to look after the loose ends of the assassination.

"It was mentioned that it was a market car, a television car

or something — a 1958 Dodge. Then the American asked when the last meeting had been and the other answered there had been none since November 1963.

"They went on to say that when they held their meeting in the Town House Motor Hotel in Kansas City, on March 18, 1964, Hoffman would be able to answer all their questions. They would know exactly what went wrong."

Giesbrecht also remembers that the American went on to ask how merchandise was coming out of Nevada and he was told: "There's no paper coming out of Mercury, Nevada." The Latin American added that Mercury is closed down.

"When I later asked the FBI agent about this, he said that paper was slang for money.

"The Latin American went on to say: 'There's no paper coming out of Mercury because it was too dangerous or too risky. We've more money at our disposal now than at any other time.'

"The mention of money seemed to put the American in a better mood, and he was also happy when the Latin American said a nice shipment had arrived in Caracas from Newport. He did not say Newport where or what type of shipment it was."

Said Giesbrecht: "They again got back to the Town House Motor Hotel in Kansas City and said they would be registered under World Trading, World Wide or something like that. There was some mention of an 'aunty' or 'aunt' coming in for the meeting, from San Francisco.

"They also mentioned a name like Mr. Romaniuk. It came up frequently during the whole conversation. I only heard the American use the name, and couldn't catch the context. He might have been calling the Latin American Mr. Romaniuk."

All this time Giesbrecht had been jotting down notes. Not a full report — just names or places or key words.

He added: "I was so interested in what they were saying I didn't think I would ever forget it. And I haven't."

About half a dozen times, partly hidden by heavy drapes hanging by the windows, Giesbrecht peered around at the two men. By pretending to look at the airport runway, he was able to see the men out of the corner of his eye.

He could see the American full face but only the back of the Latin American.

"The American looked odd — he had the oddest



PLOT SUSPECT: David Ferrie is one of two men identified as discussing Oswald and others believed to have been involved in JFK killing.

hair and eyebrows I have ever seen. He looked as if he had mustaches on top of his eyes instead of eyebrows. They looked like false eyebrows. His hair looked very odd.

"It looked as if the man had been in a fire and had false hair put on. He was wearing a pair of large, heavy glasses with heavy plastic frames. It was a face I couldn't forget.

"All I could see of the Latin American was the back of his head and part of one side of his face. There was something in his right ear that could have been a hearing aid. He had brownish red hair which seemed to be very heavily oiled, and his neck was very badly pockmarked."

Both men were in their late or middle 40s.

Perhaps Giesbrecht's attention became too obvious. Because suddenly he noticed he was being stared at by a man sitting alone across the room.

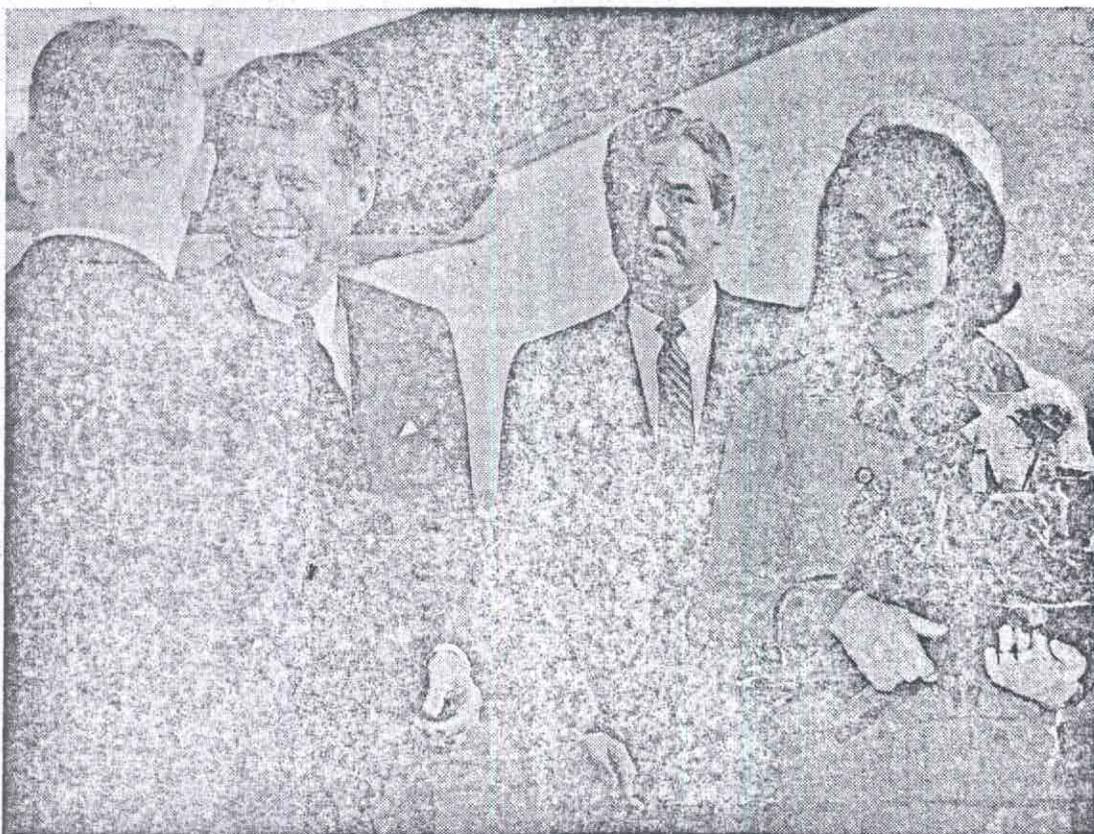
And just as suddenly the conversation, which had been about

the 'auntie' or 'aunt' from San Francisco changed in mid-sentence. The American went on to talk about how he used to fly a plane like the one sitting outside the terminal. Giesbrecht said: "The two things made me feel very uneasy. I grabbed my coat and my notes and got out of the Horizon Room, paying the waiter as I walked out."

He went to a cigarette stand and asked a woman serving there where the police office was at the airport. She told him there was a Royal Canadian Mounted Police unit in an adjoining building.

But on the route to the police office, Giesbrecht saw the man who had been staring at him in the bar.

The nervous insurance man changed direction and headed for a bank of 10 phone booths in the main hallway. And there he dialed the RCMP office in Winnipeg. Said Giesbrecht: "I wanted to tell them



IN DALLAS: Shortly before the assassination, President John F. Kennedy, Governor John Connally and Jacqueline Kennedy are greeted at Dallas Airport.



OSWALD

plexion, but his nose was strange — as if the bridge was missing. He wore a wool overcoat and had one hand in a pocket.

"I glanced at the other hand and saw something

what had happened.

"I got through and asked to speak to a senior man. I got a Corporal Pollok. I don't know how much I managed to tell him when I looked up and found the staring man was standing right beside me.

"There was no one else at the phone booths and the man said nothing.

"He was about 30, around 6 feet tall and well-built. He was very blond, with a fresh com-

like dark tattoos on the fingers."

Giesbrecht had seen no contact between this third man and the other two but he felt they were tied in and the man had warned the others that Giesbrecht was listening.

"The change in the conversation and this man following me, made me sure there was some link," he said.

The man's presence made Giesbrecht put down the telephone in mid-conversation. Then he walked back in the direction of the Horizon Room and went into a room where travelers wait for the flights to be called. As he sat down, he looked around and saw the man walk further down the hall.

For about three minutes Giesbrecht waited. Then he got up and looked around. There was no sign of the man.

So he quickly walked to his car, outside in the airport park, then drove off — his business appointment.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from preceding page)

ment forgotten completely. Later he phoned his client to apologize and make a new appointment.

"But I was scared," admitted Giesbrecht. "I drove for maybe a mile. Then I stopped the car and took out my notes and burned them. I didn't like being mixed up in this. It seemed dangerous for me and my family."

When Giesbrecht got home to his wife and four children, he waited until the kids got to bed before discussing it. His wife's idea was to forget the whole thing. But Giesbrecht decided to rewrite his notes on what he could remember, just in case he ever decided to make the conversation public.

The next day Giesbrecht telephoned a friend, who is an attorney. Together, they decided they must tell the FBI and both went to the U.S. Consulate in Winnipeg.

Last December 10 the consul, John Morris, told The ENQUIRER: "I can recall a man and his attorney coming to my office to discuss this. It was the attorney who called in the FBI."

A few days after his visit to the consulate Giesbrecht was told by the attorney that FBI agent Merle Nelson from Grand Forks, N. Dak., was in town to interview him.

All three met in the Marlborough Hotel and, after Nelson had produced his identification, Giesbrecht told his tale.

Then the agent and Giesbrecht drove to Winnipeg Airport and went over the whole thing again in detail.

Said the insurance salesman: "The FBI agent kept asking me if the American had a southern drawl. He obviously had something or someone in mind but he wouldn't say what."

"But what he did



INVESTIGATOR: Jim Garrison is following Giesbrecht's leads.

stress over and over again was: 'This is the break we've been looking for.'

"It was clear he was referring to the assassination of the President."

In all, Giesbrecht spent six hours with Nelson, and, as they parted, Nelson said: "This will be passed on to the Warren Commission. We'll be meeting again in the near future. Just keep it quiet until then."

But Giesbrecht has never seen the agent since and he doesn't know what happened with his evidence.



CRITIC: Author Harold Weisberg attacks Warren Report.

In late April 1964, he mentioned his story to a radio announcer, who put him in contact with the local newspaper, the Winnipeg Free Press.

The story was carried on May 2, 1964, but his identity was not revealed.

"I didn't want to make myself or my family a target," said Giesbrecht.

At the end of that month he agreed to tell his story on a U.S. TV station, KCND in Pembina, N. Dak. He traveled there and the station manager, Richard Vincent, taped the story in sound only.

Giesbrecht agreed to call Vincent two days later to see if the station wanted the interview on videotape.

But when he did so, a third man came on the line. It was agent Nelson.

"I recognized his voice as that of the agent. Nelson suggested on the phone that I didn't make my information public. He said: 'It could jeopardize your family and yourself. We have no jurisdiction over giving proper protection.'

"Nelson said quite clearly: 'It's too big.'"

Giesbrecht added: "I was angry and asked what could be so big that the FBI couldn't protect me. I asked who and what I should fear."

"Nelson said he couldn't tell me, but if he were in my shoes he wouldn't say anything."

Station manager Vincent confirmed to The

Winnipeg Free Press

VOL. 74 — NO. 145 PRICE 10c WITH 15c CORDON

WINNIPEG, FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1967

EST. 1880 2 1/2 C. M. Made in Canada 2 1/2 C. M. News 10c 6 1/2 C. M. 1967 6 1/2 C. M. News 10c 6 1/2 C. M.

FORECAST: COLD

City Man Now Convinced Plot Suspect Was Here

Claims He Saw Ferrie At Winnipeg Airport

By FLETCHER VAN BEMMENOM

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's affidavit to prove that the assassination of president John F. Kennedy was a conspiracy may soon focus on Winnipeg.

The current New Orleans hearings strengthened a Winnipeg man's belief that a conversation he overheard at Winnipeg International Airport three years ago was connected with the Dallas tragedy.

The man, who has asked the Free Press to keep his identity a secret for security reasons, feels certain that Mr. Garrison is not yet aware of what he knows and has been trying to contact him for the past three days, so far without results.

The Winnipeg man feels certain that on Feb. 17 at the Winnipeg airport he saw David Ferrie, the pilot



DAVID FERRIE
Airport Bar Visitor

REPORT of new evidence in Winnipeg Free Press on March 17, 1967, left Giesbrecht unnamed.

ENQUIRER that Giesbrecht had offered his story to the station.

"I was impressed with the apparent honesty of the man and felt he was telling the truth," he said. "But I decided not to run his story.

We are a small station and we did not have the resources to check it out.

"The night Giesbrecht phoned me back to ask if I was going to use the story, Nelson happened to be in the station. He frequently visited the office on various matters. He was there purely by chance.

"I mentioned to Nelson that I had Giesbrecht on the phone and told him to pick up an extension. Nelson did so — I knew he was interested in the case.

"Nelson made it clear to Giesbrecht who he was and we held a three-way conversation."

After this call, Giesbrecht kept quiet through 1965 and 1966.

But in the spring of this year, the incident flared again, even more sensationally.

While visiting his boss in the local hospital, Giesbrecht saw the front page of a newspaper on the bed. There was a big picture staring at him.

Said Giesbrecht: "The picture was that of the American I had seen at the airport discussing the



SUSPECT: Clay Shaw. Giesbrecht has offered to be a witness at his trial.

assassination conspiracy. The caption told me it was David Ferrie, suspected by DA Jim Garrison of being the getaway pilot in the conspiracy plot. He had been found dead.

"There was no doubt in my mind that this was the same man. The hair, the eyebrows and the whole face were the same."

And a couple of days later he told this to the same Winnipeg Free Press reporter who had written the original story. Again it made the front page.

But this time the information was phoned by the newspaper to Jim Garrison's office in New Or-

leans. Giesbrecht revealed: "Since then Garrison people have been in touch maybe a dozen times.

"I've been invited down to give the Garrison office all my evidence, but I told them I wasn't sure they could keep me protected.

"I knew by this time that 20 or so people linked with the assassination had already died. And I didn't want to be next.

"Jim Garrison called me himself last September 13 and said he had definitely established that David Ferrie was in Winnipeg just when I said.

"He said he knew who the men were that I'd described but he wouldn't elaborate."

Added Giesbrecht: "I'm sure there's been a cover-up somewhere and that if Jim Garrison is not stopped he will bring it out into the open."

He explained why he had changed his mind about keeping his name a secret.

"I have decided to identify myself and tell my story because I feel that the American public should know what happened.

"Also, although I realize there may be a few cranks who will try to get in touch with me, I accept

now that I am in no danger from any conspirator. I would now be prepared to appear as a witness at the Clay Shaw trial for conspiracy in the JFK assassination next month, if Garrison thought it would help."

After studying Giesbrecht's statement, The ENQUIRER spoke to FBI agent Nelson, but apart from confirming he had interviewed Giesbrecht, he would only say: "The information was passed immediately to Washington. I cannot comment on it. That is up to Washington."

But a spokesman at FBI headquarters said: "We can't discuss an individual case. The results of our investigations into the assassination were passed on to the Warren Commission and are now in the National Archives."

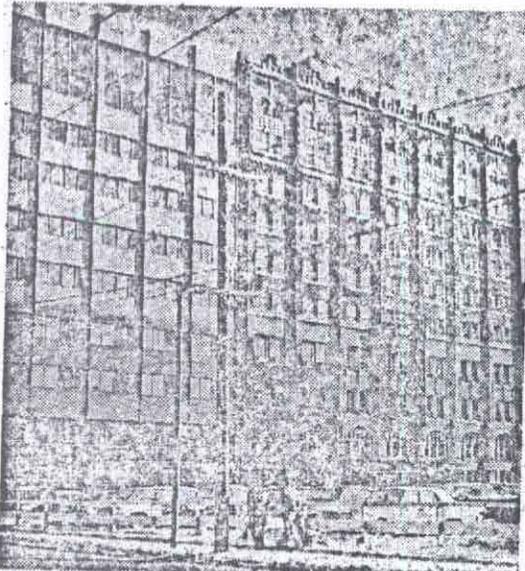
The Jim Garrison investigators are treating the Giesbrecht evidence on top level.

Louis Ivon, chief investigator, said: "We are looking in Dallas for Chuck Isaacs and a Paul Hoffman in connection with our investigations. We are taking it very seriously."

Isaacs had been mentioned briefly in the Warren Commission report when Larry Crafard, an employee of Jack Ruby, was asked if he knew the name. "It doesn't mean anything to me," he said.

Author Harold Wiesberg, whose books have bitterly criticized the way the Warren Commission reached its verdict, told our reporters: "The Giesbrecht case isn't one that surprises me.

"A great deal of evidence was suppressed because it did not fit in with the finding the Commission reached — that Oswald acted alone."



HOTEL Marlborough in Winnipeg, Canada, where Giesbrecht told FBI his shocking story.