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Garrison Hit at Hearing Plot Charge Called 'Fraud'

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The former chief investigator in the New Orleans "assassination plot" swore yesterday District Attorney Jim Garrison's conspiracy is a "baseless ... fraud."

William H. Gurvich, testifying in an out-of-state witness hearing on Gordon Novel, of Columbus, detailed for the first time under oath his seven-month tenure as No. 1 sleuth for the New Orleans district attorney.

Garrison is seeking the return of Novel, formerly of New Orleans, to testify on the "plot." Both Novel and Gurvich swore they believe the Garrison plot is made of whole cloth.

Gurvich, 42, an investigator for 22 years in his family firm in New Orleans, was called along with other witnesses, including this reporter, to testify on Novel's alleged links with the case.

TALE OF INTRIGUE

But Gurvich wound up telling an Ivan-the-terrible tale of intrigue and misuse of power in the office of Garrison. These were some of his sworn revelations:

- Garrison once said the

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Hearing Told Garrison Plot Charge a 'Fraud'

—From Page 1 who since has turned on the "D.A." The district attorney, according to Gurvich, "vowed to get them," and set up a rap to frame Sheridan and Townley, telling Gurvich "I mean physically beaten," when Gurvich questioned the plan.

- Garrison once ordered Gurvich to arrest, handcuff and beat up two NBC newsmen, Walter Sheridan and Richard Townley, who had been skeptical of Garrison's investigation.

- Garrison changed his theories weekly and sometimes daily, and over-all had taken a dozen different views of the "plot" — none of them with any substantial facts to back him up.

Despite Gurvich's testimony, Judge Henry L. Holden ordered Novel turned over to New Orleans authorities to appear as a grand jury witness tomorrow and Thursday.

However, Novel, claiming Garrison will have him indicted on a trumped-up perjury charge, is appealing Holden's ruling.

INDICTED

Gurvich testified Garrison had a "vehement hatred" for Sheridan and for Novel, who claims he was asked by Garrison to work for him, but

Sheridan has called it a "contest between truth and power."

Ticking off the holes in Garrison's case, Gurvich said Shaw was in San Francisco at the time of President Kennedy's death, and Garrison knew it.

This reporter took the stand, in answer to a subpe-

na, to testify he had arranged a lie detector test for Novel prior to writing a story on him last March.