

DA's Kennedy Probe Gets Surprise Assist

A witness sought by District Attorney Jim Garrison in his Kennedy assassination probe was quoted in California today as saying he may have information which could support the theory of a conspiracy to murder the late President.

The Los Angeles Times reported today that Loran E.

Hall made what constituted a surprising reversal of position in an appearance before Edwin Meese, California Gov. Ronald Reagan's legal affairs and extradition secretary.

Hall earlier was subpoenaed to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in the probe, fought the subpoena and won his battle in the California courts.

HE PREVIOUSLY insisted he had no knowledge of a conspiracy to kill the President. According to the Los Angeles Times story, written by former New Orleanian Jerry Cohen, Hall says now his memory recently was "jogged" by "certain individuals reminding me of persons I was in contact with in 1963 before the assassination."

He said he had supplied Meese at a meeting yesterday in Sacramento, Calif., with the names of "these certain individuals reminding me of persons I met while making speeches in the Los Angeles area when I was raising funds for anti-Castro activities.

"On almost every occasion after I finished talking at one of these meetings," Hall said, "I'd overhear some people there discussing the possibility of assassinating Kennedy—and how it might be done. Not just Kennedy. But also Chief Justice Earl Warren and other government officials—how they could be gotten rid of."

HALL, AN adventurer who once was a Castro prisoner, claims to have spoken at more than 50 meetings in Southern California in the early 1960s, seeking support for anti-Castro guerillas. Hall himself was a guerilla. He said that during the speeches he never personally advocated harming the President, although he did express disappointment over the handling of the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

Hall declined to specify sites of these meetings but said he supplied Meese with those he

could remember.

He said he has been giving "serious thought" to Garrison's demand that he appear here. "Garrison's office has been in contact with me and there's a chance I might reconsider."

HE SAID he made his decision to go to Meese after being assured by a California judge that his previous testimony would not make him subject to prosecution for perjury. He said he had asked for the audience with Meese "to protect myself in the event I do decide to go to New Orleans."

Meese had no comment on Hall's story.

Earlier, Garrison said he would set the date for the trial of Clay L. Shaw, charged with participating in a conspiracy to assassinate the President, early next week if Shaw's attorneys do not file for a rehearing before the Louisiana Supreme Court by Tuesday.

SHAW'S ATTORNEYS have attempted to get his trial moved at least 100 miles from New Orleans. Their change of venue move was denied by Criminal Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. and they asked the state high court to review the decision.

Last week, the high court said it would not interfere. The attorneys have until Tuesday to ask for a rehearing.