

GURVICH BLASTS GARRISON PROBE

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Will Try to Force DA to
Abandon Case

By BOB USSERY

Private detective William Gurvich told The Times-Picayune Tuesday he intends to force District Attorney Jim Garrison to abandon his conspiracy case against Clay L. Shaw and levelled a new barrage of charges against Garrison.

One day after quitting Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe, the private investigator who has been closely associated with Garrison for a number of months said he will attempt Wednesday to have the grand jury rescind its conspiracy indictment against Shaw.

Some main points of Gurvich's statements were:

—Garrison planned a raid on the local offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

—Garrison earmarked a number of New Orleans citizens, some of them prominent, for arrest as accessories after the fact in an alleged assassination conspiracy.

—Garrison ordered two newsmen arrested and beaten.

—There was no conspiracy to kill President John F. Kennedy.

—Garrison is incapable of proving a conspiracy.

—Garrison has no other evidence against Shaw except the testimony of Baton Rouge insurance man Perry Raymond Russo.

—Garrison was "responsible" for the death of former airline pilot David W. Ferrie.

—Garrison should be forced to drop his case against Shaw.

Garrison denied Tuesday night that he had used any illegal methods in his investigation.

He said that although Gurvich's statements would not "at all" harm his basic case against Shaw, the allegations would adversely affect potential jurors and is causing "a great strain" on his witnesses.

Gurvich, who resigned his investigative post Monday, said he will tell the jury "the truth," and "explain to them what unethical methods were employed

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in the investigation and how witnesses were collected."

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Gurvich said his testimony will concern "mainly civil rights, constitutional rights of a human being living in America. I saw it, I heard it."

Asked what he has seen and heard, Gurvich replied, "How to intimidate and coerce witnesses, to forcibly extract information that would support his (Garrison's) theories, regardless of the truthfulness of this information."

In a lengthy interview Gurvich admitted that Garrison had Shaw's name before Perry Russo came forward with information, but said he had no evidence.

"He had absolutely nothing, so much so that Garrison himself said to several people to forget Shaw, he has absolutely nothing to do with it," Gurvich said.

"Long, long before the date of arrest he had been interviewed by Garrison's staff and immediately afterward Garrison made the remarks that he should be dropped, that he was in no way involved in anything," Gurvich said.

PLAN TO RAID FBI

Gurvich charged that the purpose of Garrison's plan to raid the local offices of the FBI was to seize tapes that he suspected had been made of telephone conversations on office and residence phones of members of his staff.

"He was convinced that the FBI had all phones tapped.

"The raid was to be at midnight when only one clerk would be on duty at the FBI office.

"His investigators would be armed with 'red pepper' guns, which he described as weapons which would immobilize people without doing physical harm," Gurvich said.

He also said Garrison once instructed his staff to arrest National Broadcasting Co. reporter Walter Sheridan and WDSU-TV reporter Richard Townley.

"He wanted them arrested. He said to put them in handcuffs, beat them physically, and drag them into the police station," Gurvich said.

He said these instructions

were given as he and other staff members were leaving the district attorney's office to go to the home of a witness which Townley and Sheridan expected to visit.

DIDN'T SHOW UP

He said the reporters "didn't show," but said that no beatings would have been administered "as long as I was around."

Concerning his charge that Garrison planned to arrest a number of other New Orleansians as accessories after the fact Gurvich said he did not actually see the names written on a piece of paper in list form. But maintained that Garrison had mentioned the names.

"That was the way he explained it to dozens of people," he said.

Gurvich said the names included:

"One of the city's leading coffee importers.

"One very prominent doctor of international reputation.

"An owner of a local hotel.

"Two . . . leaders of local Cuban refugee organizations.

"A local FBI agent."

"There were others," Gurvich concluded.

SHAW'S ARREST

He described the March 1 arrest of Shaw as a "retaliatory act against the local newspapers" on Garrison's part.

"The newspaper comes out in February with the story. You know how angry that made him," Gurvich said, and added that the publicity had "called his hand."

On Feb. 17 the New Orleans States-Item revealed Garrison's probe to the public, infuriating Garrison and drawing worldwide publicity to his investigation.

"He said we've had the assassination solved for a long time and it would have been over in a few weeks," Gurvich said.

"If he had it solved, why did he need Perry Russo, which was all he had the day of the preliminary hearing," Gurvich asked.

RUSSO'S TESTIMONY

Russo testified at a preliminary criminal district court hearing which the state requested before bringing Shaw's case before the grand jury. Shaw was ordered bound over for trial.

"Perry Raymond Russo was

his entire evidence," Gurvich said. "The only reason they talked to Clay Shaw was because his first name was Clay and Bertrand's first name was Clay," Gurvich said.

Garrison claimed that Shaw used the alias of "Clay Bertrand." Dean Andrews, a now suspended Jefferson Parish assistant district attorney testified before the Warren Commission that a Clay Bertrand

had called him after the assassination about representing accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

ANDREWS INDICTED

Andrews testified before the grand jury that he could not say whether Shaw was Clay Bertrand. He was indicted for perjury.

Gurvich maintained that they are not the same. "I am positive of it," Gurvich said.

Asked if he knows who Bertrand is, Gurvich offered "no comment."

Gurvich said that the investigation "has become such an obsession with Mr. Garrison that rationality and ethics are unheard of and are never employed in the investigation."

WILL GO TO TRIAL

Will Garrison still go to trial with Shaw?

"Yes, if not forced to abandon it, he will go to trial with Clay Shaw. This he must do to satisfy his ego," Gurvich said.

Gurvich said he is of the opinion that Garrison should be forced to abandon the Shaw case.

As to how, Gurvich said, "Through legal methods, if the grand jury drops the indictment."

Then Gurvich asked another question: "If Mr. Shaw was so guilty, why didn't Mr. Garrison take the case to the grand jury in the first place?"

Shaw was not indicted until after the preliminary hearing.

FEELS HE HAS CHANCE

Asked if he thinks he has a chance to have the grand jury rescind its indictment, he said, "Yes, because they are qualified men."

Gurvich also commented on the Metropolitan Crime Commission, which has called for a state investigation of Garrison's

investigation.

"The Metropolitan Crime Commission can't do it. You've got to get somebody who was there. I was there and I watched.

"It has gotten to the point that I have enough and I'm going to use it against Jim," Gurvich said.

Gurvich denied that he had entered the investigation with the idea of hurting Garrison.

"I never intended to hurt Mr. Garrison. Mr. Garrison has hurt himself by his own practices," Gurvich said.

Garrison said Tuesday night that he has never had a case reversed for using improper methods and if anyone on his staff used such methods he (the assistant) wouldn't have a job the next day.

The district attorney said that when a prosecutor has no case against a defendant, the defendant is acquitted — "that's all settled in the trial." But, he added, there are "certain elements" that don't want the Shaw case to come to trial.

He claimed Gurvich has been in contact with those elements and called his former aide's defection "primarily an economic matter."

Garrison said certain elements of the CIA are attempting to torpedo his investigation because he said he will prove that persons connected with the CIA were involved in the assassination.

The DA said the groups opposed to him will be unsuccessful in their attempts to stop him and that Shaw will go to trial. More arrests will be made, he added.

Garrison said Gurvich didn't so much resign as "drift away about six weeks ago" and that since that time the former aide has been in contact with NBC newsman Walter Sheridan.

DAY OF ARREST

He said he had no idea of commenting on the investigation "until I saw what was done on the day of Shaw's arrest and the list of others earmarked for arrest as accessories after the fact."

Gurvich said he had doubts

as early as January. "They were weak doubts," he added.

When did they become bigger? "The day the preliminary hearing ended," he answered.

Asked if there was any justification for Garrison's suspicions of David Ferrie, whom Garrison had under surveillance before his Feb. 22 death, Gurvich said, "none whatsoever."

GARRISON BLAMED

"Mr. Ferrie died of a brain hemorrhage from extreme anticipation of arrest, and I unequivocally blame District Attorney Garrison for this.

"He didn't want to be dragged into court. He was ashamed of the way he looked."

Gurvich added:

"Garrison built up so much fear in him the man died. Garrison caused it and he could have done it to Clay Shaw."

Gurvich also discussed a charge which fugitive witness Gordon Novel made against Garrison, and which involved Ferrie.

Novel has said Garrison suggested a plot to shoot Ferrie with a tranquilizer gun, take him somewhere, and torture him by ripping off his false eyebrows and hair.

Gurvich said he knew Garrison and Novel discussed the plot.

"When I asked about it he (Garrison) said, 'Hell, that was Gordon's idea,'" Gurvich said.

"The dangerous thing there is

that he admitted he discussed it," Gurvich added.

'SERIOUS THING'

He said if Garrison even entertained such an idea, that "then it is a serious thing."

Gurvich described the idea of a conspiracy in the presidential assassination as "ridiculous," and added:

"There was no conspiracy, no indication that there was ever a conspiracy anywhere. It was his (Garrison's) own little idea."

"He has no case, there was no conspiracy. Jim Garrison isn't capable of finding one," he added.

Getting back to Shaw's preliminary hearing, Gurvich said:

"He had the world believing that, certainly, he must have had more than he had at the preliminary hearing, when in truth that was all he had."

Gurvich maintained that **Vernon Bundy, a Negro narcotics addict who also testified at the hearing, did not come forward until the last day of the hearing. "He (Garrison) hadn't even heard of him,"** Gurvich said.

Bundy testified he saw Shaw and Oswald on the New Orleans lakefront in 1963.

Gurvich said he interviewed Bundy for Garrison on the third day of Shaw's hearing, but would not comment on whether he thinks the man was truthful.

"I'll save that for the grand jury," Gurvich said.

RECENT ACTIVITY

Gurvich also said that he has recently been active in Garrison's investigation and gave an example:

"As an example of how re-

cently I was a key member of Mr. Garrison's investigation, I was to conduct frangible bullet tests by June 3 and I was to give the results to a local newspaper reporter."

He explained that frangible bullets are the type made to disintegrate upon impact. He was commissioned to make the tests about the middle of May, he said.

Garrison "believes Kennedy was killed with frangible bullets," Gurvich said.

"The frangible bullet theory developed the day he received an anonymous letter saying the writer believed that the assassination was done with frangible bullets," Gurvich said.

"That was another of Garrison's wild and woolly theories," he said.

Asked if he feared "physical retaliation" from Garrison, Gurvich replied, "I don't fear it but I wouldn't be surprised."