

PROBE PROGRAM AGAIN BLASTED

T-P 6/22/67
Tape Alleges NBC Talk
with Witness

District Attorney Jim Garrison Wednesday quoted one of his assassination probe witnesses as saying that a local newsman asked her for a taped interview and told her that Garrison was "going to be destroyed."

What was purported to be a transcript of an interview with Marlene Mancuso, ex-wife of material witness Gordon Novel, was included in a press release in which Garrison again blasted the National Broadcasting Co. The interview was supposedly conducted by Garrison and Louis Ivon, his chief investigator, May 20.

In his own statement, Garrison attempted to link NBC to the federal government through defense contracts of the Radio Corporation of America.

"It helps to clarify the role of the federal government in obstructing the investigation if it is kept in mind that NBC is owned by RCA—the Radio Corporation of America. RCA is one of the top 10 corporations with regard to defense contracts with the federal government," Garrison said.

Marlene Mancuso was reportedly a girl friend of Novel's in 1961 and has since been married to and divorced from him.

It was she who swore in an affidavit that Novel was in New Orleans in August, 1961, when, Garrison claims, Novel conspired with David Ferrie and Sergio Arcacha Smith to burglarize a munitions bunker near Houma.

The affidavit was used for extradition purposes on the burglary conspiracy charge against Novel, who is in Ohio.

The newsman, Richard Townley, of WDSU-TV, said the Garrison-supplied transcript, was at first "interested in the laundry truck which was used in the

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burglary at the blimp base at Houma."

Part of the transcript quotes Miss Mancuso as saying Townley mentioned a "second Oswald" and a jail sentence for Garrison.

"He said they were not merely going to discredit the probe — he said Garrison would get a jail sentence. He said he figured that I was going to be Mr. Garrison's star witness, and that Mr. Garrison was going to use me to discredit Gordon and make him appear as a second Oswald."

At another point the transcript has Miss Mancuso quoting Townley this way: "He said they are going to expose Mr. Garrison as a fraud and that he is working with NBC out of WDSU on this."

The transcript also quotes Miss Mancuso as saying of Townley, "He gave me the impression that he knows an awful lot about me and that I may as well level with him if I want to be shown in a good light."

14 Men Believed Involved in Muder

The Nashville Tennessean quoted District Attorney Jim Garrison Wednesday as saying President John F. Kennedy was killed by a 14-man team of Cuban guerrillas who trained secretly in St. Tammany Parish in the summer of 1963.

In a copyrighted story prepared for Thursday's edition, the newspaper said Garrison believes the assassins were anti-

Castro refugees, brought to New Orleans from Miami to prepare for an assault on Cuba.

The district attorney was also quoted as saying the late David Ferrie, who died in February while under investigation by Garrison, was connected "in some capacity" with the guerrillas.

The men he now seeks in his probe, Garrison said, were "definitely among the Cuban trainees."

The Tennessean said Garrison theorized that "some members known to Ferrie turned their wrath on President Kennedy when it became apparent the United States would not support isolated assaults on Cuba."