

NBC Newsman Charged by DA On Bribe Count

A National Broadcasting Co. newsman faced arrest today after being charged with the attempted bribery of a key witness in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation.

A *capias* warrant was issued yesterday for Walter Sheridan, the apparent leader of a team of NBC reporters who produced a recent hour-long program on the Garrison inquiry.

The TV program sought to show that the DA's case against 54-year-old Clay L. Shaw was built at least partially upon testimony which did not pass a lie detector test.

GARRISON responded yesterday by charging Sheridan with public bribery of Perry Raymond Russo, the 25-year-old Baton Rouge insurance salesman who said he over-

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heard Shaw plotting the President's death.

The NBC show said Russo was subjected to and failed a lie detector test. Russo immediately replied that he was found to be too nervous to take a polygraph test on two occasions.

At the same time, Russo gave the DA a sworn statement in which he said Sheridan had offered to "set me up in California" if he would defect from Garrison's case and join the opposition.

A bill of information filed yesterday by Garrison's office said Sheridan tried to bribe Russo on or about June 11 by making him the following offers:

1. Lodging in a residence in California.
2. Payment of the fee of an attorney for extradition proceedings.
3. Protection and immunity from the State of Louisiana and the district attorney's office.
4. Guaranteed employment in California or job security.

A DA's spokesman said the office did not know Sheridan's whereabouts. He was here as late as June 28 during a session of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Garrison has identified Sheridan as a former official of the Justice Department. He has charged that high placed government officials are attempting to halt his investigation.

Shaw, who has been indicted on a charge of conspiring to murder Kennedy at Dallas in November, 1963, is free on \$10,000 bail. Asst. DA James L. Alcock has predicted the trial may begin in September.

In other developments yesterday, NBC announced that Garrison has accepted its offer of 30 minutes air time to respond to the network's critical documentary. Garrison's program is scheduled from 7 to 7:30 p. m. July 15.