

# Garrison Charges NBC Newsman with Bribery

T-P 7/8/67  
Approached Russo, DA  
Alleges Here

By ROBERT USSERY

District Attorney Jim Garrison Friday charged National Broadcasting Co. newsman Walter Sheridan with public bribery of Baton Rouge insurance man Perry Raymond Russo, the state's major witness to come to light thus far in the Clay L. Shaw conspiracy case.

In an apparent effort to stop what he considers an effort to wreck his Kennedy assassination investigation through interference with state's witnesses, Garrison had a direct bill of information filed against Sheridan in the office of the clerk of criminal district court.

An NBC spokesman in New York denied that Sheridan ever bribed or attempted to bribe any witness in Garrison's case.

The bill, signed by Assistant District Attorney Robert E. Lee, and filed by assistant Richard V. Burnes, alleges that Sheridan committed the crime on or about June 11 by offering Russo the following:

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 capias for Sheridan's arrest was signed by Judge Thomas M. Brahney Jr. shortly before 4 p. m. and forward-

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## GARRISON PROBE

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ed to the office of Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. Bond was placed at \$5,000.

A spokesman in the district attorney's office said it was not known whether Sheridan was in New Orleans. He was seen most of the day in the Criminal Courts building on June 28 when the Orleans Parish grand jury was in session.

Another source in Garrison's office speculated that Sheridan would probably voluntarily face the charge rather than wage an extradition fight.

The charge coincided with Russo's appearance Friday afternoon in Garrison's office.

Russo said only that Assistant District Attorney Andrew Sciambra had asked him to come, but that he did not know why.

A partial account of the alleged bribery was included in a memorandum from Sciambra to Garrison on June 19 which purported to be a report on conversations between Russo and Sheridan and other persons.

The account went this way:

"Russo said that he told Sheridan that he needed a rest as the news people have been bothering him day and night and that he would take a seven to ten day vacation in California after the baseball season was over. Russo said that Sheridan then asked him if he would like to live in California. Sheridan then told him that if he did side up with NBC and the defense and bust up the Garrison probe that he would have to run from Garrison and move from Louisiana. Sheridan said that they could set him up in California, protect his job, get him a lawyer and that he could guarantee that Garrison could never get him extradited back to Louisiana. Sheridan then asked him if he would like to leave now and Russo told him no."

In another development, an NBC spokesman in New York said that Garrison had accepted the network's offer of a 30-minute nationwide telecast in which to reply to NBC's hour special last month entitled "The JFK Conspiracy—The Case of Jim Garrison."

Garrison's program, to be

aired from the local facilities of WDSU-TV, is scheduled for 7-7:30 p.m. July 15. NBC's documentary was critical of the Garrison probe.

### GRAND JURY

In earlier developments Friday two grand jury subpoenas were issued for William Gurvich, a private investigator who resigned his role in Garrison's investigation, and John Cancler, an inmate of the Parish Prison who has made allegations about Garrison's probe on the NBC program.

Gurvich requested an appearance before the jury and testified at the June 28 session. At that time Albert V. LaBiche, jury foreman, said that Gurvich's report was not complete and that he would return in two weeks. Both men are ordered to report Wednesday.

Cancler is awaiting a decision on a motion for a new trial on a burglary conviction in Criminal District Court.

Cancler has said that Garrison's staff asked him to break into Shaw's home to place something there.