

Focuses On 'Conspiracy' Witness Year-Old Kennedy Death 'Expose'

By Robert W. LUCAS

Our Washington Bureau Chief

NEW ORLEANS, La.—One year has passed since Jim Garrison, the towering district attorney of Orleans Parish, announced that he knew who killed President John F. Kennedy in Dallas and that it was not Lee Harvey Oswald. He has described his case as "straight out of Alice in Wonderland."

Last February, Garrison said, "My staff and I solved the assassination weeks ago. I wouldn't say this if we didn't have the evidence beyond a shadow of a doubt."

To date the 46-year-old DA has arrested and held for trial one man: Clay L. Shaw, a prominent New Orleans businessman, who is charged with taking part in a conspiracy to murder Kennedy and is free on \$10,000 bond.

Two other men, allegedly seen

with Shaw plotting the crime, are dead: Oswald and David W. Ferrie, said to have been a brilliant but wretched homosexual oddball.

Witness Hypnotized

The only witness to this bizarre clique of "conspirators," whose own three-year-old recollection was refreshed by hypnosis at Garrison's order, was Perry Raymond Russo. Russo told two stories.

The account he gave Andrew J. ("Moo") Sciambra, a Garrison aide, who wrote a 3,500-word report to his boss, contained no reference to Oswald, Shaw and Ferrie "plotting" to kill anyone. It said nothing of "Ferrie's apartment," where Russo later recalled seeing the fateful meeting.

Under a hypnotic trance induced by Dr. Edmond Fatter, Russo told the more sensational story which convinced three judges that Shaw should stand trial.

Dr. Fatter said he interrogated Russo three times under hypnosis. The stenographic transcript of the questions used in "helping" Russo's memory, and which drew out a story vastly different from the one Sciambra had reported, added names and relationships that Russo had not previously mentioned.

Dr. Fatter told James Phelan of the Saturday Evening Post

that the questions came from "Garrison's office." Sciambra said he "forgot" to include Russo's references to the assassination plot in his first report. And he said he had "burned" his original notes.

The only other witness against Shaw, that produced the judges' decision against him and a grand jury indictment, was Vernon Bundy.

Bundy, a narcotics addict, said that as he prepared to give himself a "fix" on the New Orleans shore of Lake Pontchartraine in the summer of 1963, he saw Shaw with Lee Harvey Oswald.

One Committed For Perjury

One more figure among the three score and more names that have appeared since Garrison opened his investigation has been arrested, tried and convicted.

Dean Adams Andrews, an attorney in Jefferson Parish, was found guilty of perjury after contradictions while trying to identify the voice that allegedly asked him, by telephone, to defend Oswald in Dallas.

The Shaw trial was set for early February, but was postponed when his lawyers asked a change of venue.

But for 18 months Garrison has carried on a nationwide publicity crusade in behalf of this theory that Kennedy was murdered by a "precision-trained guerrilla team" of at least seven men recruited from bands of anti-Castro refugees in New Orleans, para-military groups such as the "Minutemen," right-wing extremists of neo-Nazi coloration and a homosexual "loser" seeking to commit the "perfect crime."

The district attorney has said that some of the plotters were former employes of the Central Intelligence Agency and informers for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Because of this, Garrison believes the CIA and the FBI, with cooperation of the Warren Commission, the attorney general and even President Lyndon B. Johnson, have concealed and destroyed evidence.

The Garrison version of the ghastly events in Dealey Plaza unfolds in a ceaseless flow of innuendo, suspicion and assumption but he has revealed very little proof. He has said that to "lay it all out" would "jeopardize" his investigation.

And to answer or rebut the drumfire of accusations rolling from Garrison's office would require a full replay of the Warren Commission investigation (which included interrogation of 522 witnesses). It would require, too, that the commission and all of the agencies that produced the 26-volume report acknowledge and accept Garrison's challenge, i.e., that "the burden has shifted to the government to

prove that it was not an accessory before or after the fact" of Kennedy's death.

The Array Of Charges

What are some of Garrison's more sensational charges?

"A number of men who killed President Kennedy were former employes of the CIA... the CIA knows their identity. So do I. Our investigation has established this without a shadow of doubt."

Garrison's office subpoenaed Allen W. Dulles, former head of the CIA, on Feb. 16 with the statement that Garrison "has succeeded in identifying the assassination of President Kennedy as an operation conducted by elements of the CIA," and that Dulles is needed to testify about CIA activities. The request says that as CIA director prior to Sept. 27, 1961, Dulles "would have pertinent knowledge as to substantial reports that Lee Harvey Oswald was an agent and-or an employe of the CIA."

Garrison claims Oswald was recruited and trained by the CIA while in the Marines at Japan's Atsugi Air Force Base. But the CIA "concealed" proof of Oswald's role by burying in the national archives 51 documents classified as top secret, he said.

And, Garrison says, "any document the CIA wanted classified was shunted into the archives without examination by the sleeping beauties of the (Warren) commission."



JIM GARRISON

'Jolly Green Giant's' *Second In A Series* JFK Probe Triggered In '66 Chat With Long

By ROBERT W. LUCAS

Our Washington Bureau Chief

NEW ORLEANS, La.—How and why did Earling Carothers Garrison (who much prefers "Jim"), the district attorney of

pro'se Court, which upheld the right of one public official to criticize others).

Garrison is colorful, outspoken, brutally candid and highly articulate. He is also a swinger—and he is popular.

Garrison has parlayed his political muscle, his intriguing crusade against as-yet faceless assassins and his ambition into a position of fearsome power in one-party Louisiana.

After Garrison arrested Clay L. Shaw, prominent New Orleans businessman, and charged him with conspiring to murder President Kennedy, Louisiana's Gov. John J. McKeithen was asked if he had any criticism of Garrison.

"No," McKeithen said, "and if I did, I wouldn't voice it. I have learned that most of Jim Garrison's enemies are buried." He added that he meant "in a political sense."

Garrison's detractors claim that he is intimidating the mag-

istrates (who are elected) and controls the grand jury that is selected by rotating presiding judges.

The district attorney's friends reply that Garrison, early in his first term after election in 1962, was able to reduce B-girl drinking, prostitution and other out-of-control crime in New Orleans'

famed French Quarter only by forcing the judges to give him money to run the crackdown.

Next: While Jim Garrison is toiling to spring a "miracle" in the assassination case, attention is being focused on his personality and his record as chief law enforcement officer of Orleans Parish.

Orleans Parish, become the only law enforcement officer now trying to disprove the Warren Commission's findings on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Garrison himself says skepticism about the report was trig-

gered in the fall of 1966, during a plane ride to New York with Sen. Russell B. Long, Louisiana Democrat. Long, Garrison said, had some doubts about Kennedy's assassination.

Returning to New Orleans, Garrison dipped into what he called some "interesting articles and books criticizing the Warren Report."

The Warren Report was published Sept. 27, 1964. It named Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone assassin.

Articles by Mark Lane, Vincent Salandria, Leo Sauvage and Joachim Joesten, severely criticizing the report, apparently convinced many readers that the Warren findings were incomplete at best, phony at worst. Gallup Poll and Harris Survey studies have found doubt among a high percentage of the American people that the Warren Commission had "told the full story."

The public's doubts leaped af-

ter Jim Garrison had started the country and the world with his announcement that he had discovered a "plot" to assassinate Kennedy; that the conspirators were "known;" that he would bring about their arrest and conviction.

Garrison's interest in the Kennedy assassination seems to have coincided, then, with the appearance of a number of books insinuating or asserting that President Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy that had been deliberately swept under the rug by the CIA and "covered up" by the chief justice of the United States, Earl Warren.

The political environment in Louisiana and local conditions and customs in Orleans Parish provided a logical background for a conspiracy and an ex post facto exploitation of it.

Of the several thousand exiles from Castro's Cuba who had fled to New Orleans, there were many who had been embittered

by what they considered to be Kennedy's "broken promises" to help them regain their homes in Cuba.

There was and remains a strong "anti-Washington" feeling in Louisiana.

These were the circumstances, then, in which Big Jim Garrison (known in New Orleans as the "Jolly Green Giant") could "discover" or "conceive" a five-year old conspiracy to kill a president.

Garrison himself would find either the proof and prosecution of a conspiracy or the authorship of it fascinating.

He is a voluble, imaginative and well-read man.

He likes to write. During his trial for defaming eight Orleans Parish Criminal Court judges, Garrison displayed his contempt for the proceedings by writing a play, in Shakespearian style, while being tried.

D.A.'s JFK Death 'Discoveries' Parallel Warren Critic Theories

By ROBERT W. LUCAS
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NEW ORLEANS, La. — Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's widely publicized "discoveries" about who killed President Kennedy, and how the incredibly complex deed was accomplished, parallel theories of the crime first propounded by authors of books critical of the Warren Commission report.

Federal agents have remained silent on the phenomenon of demonology that seems to have captivated the imagination of many Americans, especially those of college age.

Privately, they say that continuous examination of Garrison's "evidence" and the allegations of such self-appointed investigators as Mark Lane ("Rush to Judgment") and Harold Weisberg ("Whitewash") reveal nothing that is new or helpful.

All such evidence and allegations have been checked against the voluminous files of the manifold government intelligence services. But Garrison and Lane, now working together, have apparently succeeded nonetheless in convincing many that the "government" is lying, concealing the truth and covering up its past mistakes.

Speculation as to the true origin of Garrison's investigation, considering the early influence and later participation of Warren Report critics such as Lane and Weisberg, includes the comment of John Sparrow, English academician, in the London Times' literary supplement.

Sparrow cites "evidence of association between those who have criticized the (Warren) report."

"If the critics turned their scrutiny upon themselves they might well detect in their own activities evidence of a sinister combination," he says. And, he observes, "throughout four

years America has been dragged, hundreds of witnesses have been interviewed, no money and no effort has been spared — and the nets are empty, save for a handful of homosexuals and other queer fish in New Orleans.

Is it possible, then, that Garrison has embraced portions of several postulations in the titillating books and articles that set the country to wondering about the assassination in mid-1966?

For it is true that Garrison's "proof" was allegedly uncovered after public skepticism about the Warren Report had

reached its apogee in opinion polls.

Position Complicated

The government's position in this disturbing controversy is complicated by two probable facts:

1. Its original decision to withhold and classify information and evidence gathered in support of the Warren Commission's final report was hasty and ill-advised. The volume and types of material withdrawn from public view were excessive and, some of it, harmless.

2. The generally accepted role of the Central Intelligence Agency in the arming and training of anti-Castro rebels at camps in Louisiana and Mississippi clouded the true status of certain pre-assassination figures in and around Orleans parish.

In the first instance the government is left vulnerable to the charge, however irrelevant and spurious, of wilfully concealing evidence that reflects adversely on its own integrity and competence.

In the case of the CIA, the agency is now being hoisted on its own petard of what it believes to be essential immunity from disclosure, and what others believe to be obsessive involvement with and manipula-

tion of groups and individuals in the national interest.

It makes little difference at this point that nothing in the national archives supports the convoluted schemes of conspiracy now claimed by Garrison; or that the existence of one-time CIA agents or employees does not prove that they were ever recruited to murder a president.

Mystery Is An Element

People who love a mystery, and certainly one arising from an unbelievable and sinister sequence of events culminating in shocking assassination and murder (the latter viewed by millions on television) are beguiled by secrecy, not reassured or persuaded by it.

However complicated and awkward the government's position is, however, that of Garrison seems inexcusable and intolerable. For his "trail by publicity" seems to foredoom the success of his case, even if it is ever established that he has one that is actionable.

He has ascribed complicity and motives of murder and conspiracy to the defenseless dead.

He has asserted over and over again what can be no more than a presumption of "proof" and guilt of a plot and to plotters. He has, however, named only one — Clay L. Shaw — while two of his alleged coconspirators are in their graves.

He has made it appear that all instrumentalities and officials of government other than his own office, including the federal agencies, the presidential commission of distinguished citizens and the presidency itself, are concealing and destroying evidence and obstructing the processes of justice.

Faces Accusations

But he faces mounting charges of misusing the processes of justice himself, including the grand jury, the interrogation of witnesses and the collection of evidence.

And Jim Garrison appears to have grossly violated canons of the bench and bar, both in fact and in spirit, by endless, prejudicial, premature and mischievous public discussion of a nationally critical case that has barely advanced beyond the headline stage in more than one year.

The federal judiciary of Louisiana was asked to intervene to restrain Garrison's oppressive use of the subpoena power, and responded immediately and favorably. But the attorney general of that state has ignored pleas by the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans to investigate charges of Garrison's irregularities, misconduct and even the commission of "crimes" against both the state and harassed citizens.

The American Bar Association has said or done nothing.

The Orleans Parish Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has offered muted objections to Garrison's tactics, but the parent body — historically proud of its role as "watchdog of civil liberties" — has remained silent.

Garrison himself, in what may prove to have been his most truly prophetic statement, said early in his probe of the Kennedy assassination:

"The key to the whole case is through the looking glass. Black is white; white is black. I don't want to be cryptic, but that's the way it is."

Lane, Weisberg and other citizen-critics and authors of scathing tracts on the Warren Report exercise their rights of free speech and free press under the First Amendment. The effect of their words may be unfortunate, even deplorable. But their right to criticize, in harshest terms, is unassailable.

Garrison, however, is an "officer of the court," a public official with special responsibilities to protect the rights, privileges and immunities of individuals under the constitution as well as to enforce the laws of Louisiana.

Now, regardless of what Garrison finally turns up in his privately-financed investigation, some of his methods would seem to inspire examination and censure.

New Orleans DA's Concentration On 'Plot'

Leaves Him Vulnerable *Third Of Four Articles*

By ROBERT W. LUCAS
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NEW ORLEANS, La. — Jim Garrison, the district attorney of Orleans parish, may have become so preoccupied with his conspiracy theory of John F. Kennedy's death that he has become seriously vulnerable in the conduct of his own office.

Garrison is under attack by New Orleans' Metropolitan Crime Commission for failure to prosecute organized crime in Orleans Parish as required by law.

The commission also demanded investigation by the Louisiana attorney general's office of "22 or more crimes" allegedly committed by Garrison and his staff in bullying, bribing and threatening witnesses in the district attorney's conspiracy probe.

The commission made its plea in an advertisement published in the New Orleans States-Item Aug. 29.

In asking for the state to intervene, the crime commission said:

"Mr. Garrison has made serious charges of a federal conspiracy to conceal evidence and to delude the public. Whether or not his charges are true, they tend to destroy credibility of the various high level officials who served on the Warren Commission; of the CIA, upon whom we must depend for protection of this nation against foreign subversion, and of the FBI, the protector of our internal security

..."

The managing director of the privately financed crime commission is Aaron M. Kohn, a 10-year veteran of the FBI and

onetime division supervisor in Washington.

Kohn himself has tangled repeatedly with Garrison. Kohn insists now that Orleans parish is host to major organized crime and rackets, a charge that Garrison contemptuously denies.

Federal Crime Team Set Up

The federal government, however, has named southern Louisiana and New Orleans as one of seven targets for special "strike forces" to bust big-time crime. The teams are composed of more than a dozen men from the Bureau of Narcotics, the Treas-

ury Department, the Internal Revenue Service and the racketeering division of the Department of Labor.

Kohn himself was jailed for 19 hours Dec. 14 for failure to reveal to the grand jury the identity of his informants on gambling activity. He was released through a temporary order of the Louisiana Supreme Court, which will hear arguments on his conviction March 14.

Garrison's use of the subpoena, powers of arrest and the grand jury have led to charges that he is "power mad" and uses the law "like a damn club."

His attempts to extradite witnesses from Ohio, Iowa and California have failed. Only Texas sent Lee Harvey Oswald's widow Marina to New Orleans, where her testimony before the grand jury reportedly produced nothing new.

Garrison has been charged with attempting to maneuver unrepresented witnesses in secret grand jury sessions so that they become vulnerable to indictment on grounds of perjury.

Atmosphere of Fear

In New Orleans there is a pervasive atmosphere of fear of Garrison's power and his employment of it.

All of this has added impetus to the questions of (1) What is Jim Garrison up to? (2) What motivates the man? (3) Has he really "got something" vis-a-vis a plot to kill Kennedy, or, (4) Has Garrison become enmeshed in the theories of "demonologists" and become their witting (or unwitting) vehicle?

There are many theories about Jim Garrison's "drives."

His performance as a sub-official in the district attorney's office, and while in the private practice of law, was, on the record, undistinguished.

Garrison joined the National Guard in May, 1939. He was called to active duty in January, 1941 and discharged in 1946 after three and one-half years as a field artillery officer and 18 months as a liaison pilot. (He served in Europe from February to December, 1945).

Garrison suffered from what his records indicate was an "exhaustion syndrome," both during his years in law school and later. He could do no more than a half-day's work and would then have to rest and recuperate.

Between October, 1950 and February, 1951 Garrison was treated with continuous psychotherapy by a psychiatrist at Louisiana State University. And he was told that his trouble "is a deep-seated, chronic, severe psychoneurosis."

When Garrison reported for active Army duty July 24, 1951, in connection with the Korean War, he was forced to report to "sick call" after the first day's routine, was hospitalized at Fort Sill and transferred to Brooke Army Hospital in September.

On Oct. 31, 1951 Garrison was given a "physical disability" discharge on a record showing a "well established anxiety reaction, chronic, which began with the individual in civilian life."

Foe Cites Discharge

During Garrison's campaign for re-election in 1965, his opponent, Malcolm O'Hara, produced a photocopy of a document which he said showed that Garrison's discharge from the Army National Guard was based on an anxiety reaction which he described as "an ugly force in him that drives him to destroy everyone who fails to bow to his will ... it used to be called a Napoleonic complex."

Garrison retorted that he would send O'Hara to jail for illegal use of a military record. He later dropped the matter, however. He explained that he had contracted "amoebic dysentery" in Europe during World

II and it recurred during Korean War; that his so-called "anxiety reaction" was based on physical difficulties.

Next: Is Garrison's probe of Kennedy's assassination the "real thing," or mainly an application of "demonology" through the misuse of his investigative powers? Key agencies of the federal government, that have remained silent, say privately that the "probe" has revealed nothing new.

Oswald Held Solely Guilty; No JFK Plot 'Conspiracy'

Gannett News Service

The Warren Commission, directed to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, was appointed by President Johnson on Nov. 29 of that year.

Its members included Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman; Sens. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., and John Sherman Cooper, R-Ky.; Reps. Hale Boggs, D-La., and Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich.; Allen W. Dulles, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and John J. McCloy, chairman of the general advisory committee to the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

The commission's 888-page report was issued Sept. 27, 1964.

The Congressional Quarterly Almanac for 1964 said:

"From the mass of evidence, including the results of FBI test and the testimony of eyewitnesses, firearms and ballistic experts, and medical authorities, the commission found that the assassination shots were fired 'from above and behind' the President, and more particularly from the 'sixth floor window at the southwest corner of the Texas School Book Depository Building.'"

"The conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shots

was based on the following subsidiary findings: (1) He owned and possessed the rifle used; (2) he bought the rifle into the building on the morning of the assassination; (3) he was present at the time and at the window from which the shots were fired; (4) he killed Dallas policeman J.D. Tippit in an apparent attempt at escape; (5) He resisted arrest in the Texas theater by drawing a fully loaded pistol and attempting to shoot another officer; (6) he repeatedly lied to police concerning substantive matters during his 48 hours in the Dallas Police Department and jail; (7) he attempted to kill Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker (retired) April 10, 1963; (8) he possessed the capability with a rifle which would have enabled him to fire the shots."

The commission found "no credible evidence" that Oswald was "part of a conspiracy" to assassinate President Kennedy nor that he was aided in the planning or execution of his scheme.

It further ruled out the possibility that Jack Ruby and Oswald were acquainted, and could produce no grounds for believing that Ruby's killing of Oswald was part of a conspiracy.