

## Garrison's Bullet

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Not very long ago, New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison issued an eloquent plea to the nation's editorialists to quit picking on him. His argument, which was carried in the October issue of Playboy magazine, was a reasonable one.

The newspapers and television commentators should, he said, stop attacking his theory that a group of conspirators was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy. Clay L. Shaw, a New Orleans businessman, was under indictment on the charge. Withhold your judgment, he asked, until the trial, now scheduled for early February, when the evidence would be brought out. The request met with a good deal of compliance.

Silence, it now seems, has been more unbearable for Garrison than adverse comment. He has now, in one sweeping statement, charged that the President of the United States, the Chief Justice of the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and/or the Secret Service, members of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the "Federal Government" in general are all involved in a massive conspiracy to hide the truth about the assassination from the remainder of the people.

The basis for this charge is three photographs which, according to Garrison, show "an investigative agent of the federal government" picking up what Garrison said is a .45 caliber bullet in what Garrison said is the assassination site, exactly ten minutes, Garrison said, after the shooting.

The President, Garrison charged, necessarily must have known that "the Warren Commission is a fraud." And unless Washington comes up—pronto—"with an explanation as to why this bullet has been kept concealed, there is no alternative but to conclude that the entire assassination investigation . . . comprised an elaborate camouflage designed to protect the assassins . . . as well as the men behind them."

There is at least one alternative conclusion that springs to mind. It is possible that the District Attorney of New Orleans has begun to cave in under the strain of maintaining an elaborate complex fiction.

We would respectfully suggest to prosecutor that he should observe silence he demands from others. A country, which has enough real things to worry about, would be delighted to forget all about him, given a chance.