

Via Radio -

Inklow P. 70 - 1/10/69

12:00 mid.—WNBC—Long John Nebel's Discussion Show: Fred Pohl, Paris Flammonas,  
Dr. Howard Miller. "The Assassination of President Kennedy."

Who are these people?

Saturday - 1/11/69 Daily News

# JFK'S DEATH... A PLOT?

The question persists to this day. And it'll soon be reopened as New Orleans' flamboyant DA Jim Garrison tries to prove in court that there really was a plot... that Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone... even that the Warren Commission may have tried to hide the truth. Garrison accused Clay Shaw, a top-level businessman, of complicity in an alleged conspiracy involving bribery, perjury, narcotics, homosexuality and a series of unexplained deaths. Don't miss "Was There a Plot to Kill JFK?" in this week's...

**SUNDAY NEWS**  
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER

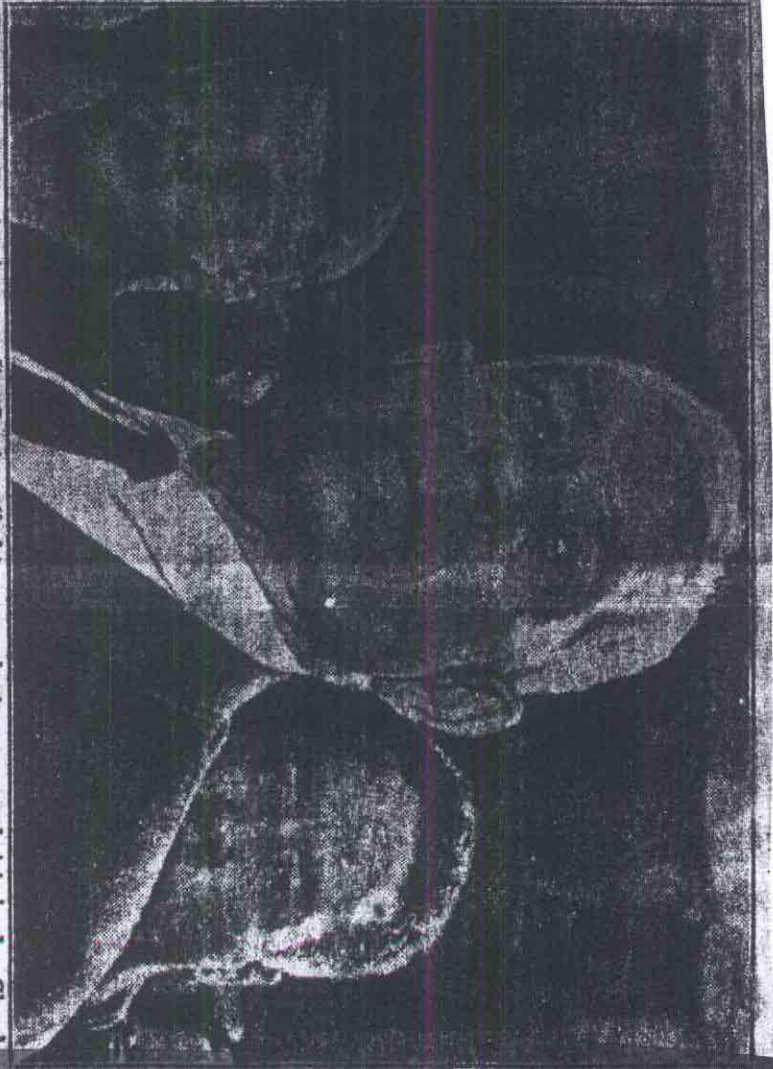
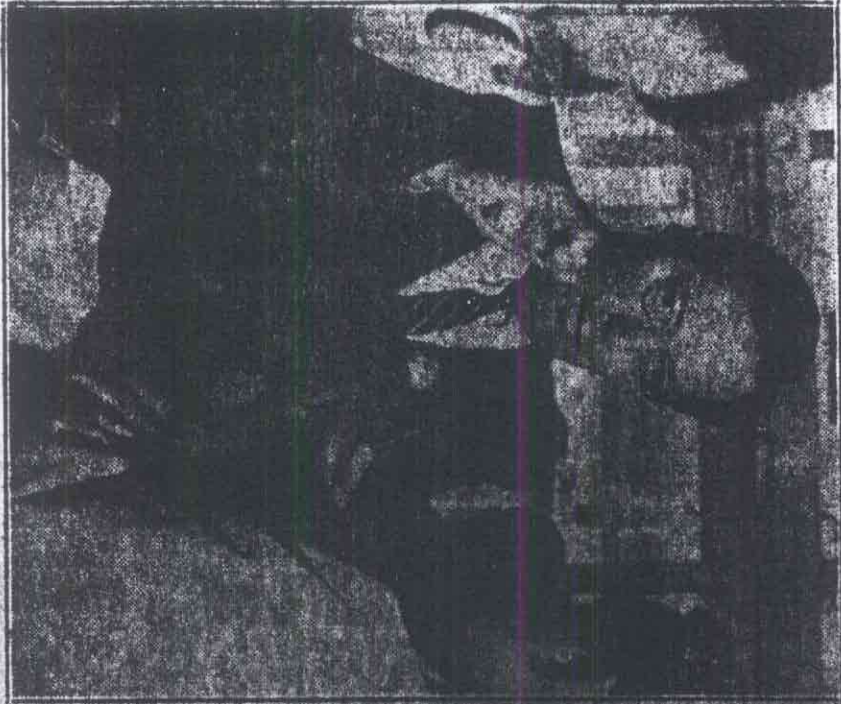
**WAS THERE**

JANUARY 12, 1969  
**A PLOT TO**

SUNDAY  
**KILL JFK?**

**New Orleans District Attorney  
—and he'll try to prove it next  
challenge to the official concl**

**Jim Garrison insists there was  
week in a bizarre courtroom  
usion that Oswald acted alone**



New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison (to ft) accuses businessman and civic leader Clay I Shaw (above) of conspiracy in alleged plot to kill President Kennedy. Shaw will go to trial next week in bizarre case which is really a challenge to Warren Report conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in assassination of JFK.

By GEORGE NORBE

CLAY L. SHAW, the New Orleans businessman accused of conspiracy in a plot to murder President Kennedy, goes on trial next week in one of the most bizarre

cases in American legal history.

Quite aside from the enormity of the charge, the trial is expected to ripple with undercurrents of bribery, homosexuality, perjury, narcotics, politics and international intrigue. It may even shed some light on a series of oddly coincidental spin-off deaths.

Scheduled to begin Jan. 21, the long-awaited trial, delayed time and again by Shaw's lawyers, boils down to a showdown between New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison and the men who prepared the 26-volume Warren Commission report on the assassination.

The flamboyant and controversial district attorney insists a conspiracy of several men, one of them Shaw, was responsible for the death of Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination.

The last of the legal obstacles to the start of the trial was removed Friday with the denial of a fourth motion for a change of venue that would have taken the case at least 100 miles out of New Orleans.

Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty also denied a defense motion to throw out the indictment, which charges Shaw with conspiring in 1963 with Oswald, Jack Ruby, David Ferrie and others to kill Kennedy.

Said Haggerty: "I will conduct the trial even on Mardi Gras, if necessary."

Said Garrison: "There is no way that Clay Shaw can get an acquittal."

Said Edward F. Wagnann, Shaw's lawyer: "Clay Shaw cannot be convicted. He will be absolutely vindicated."

Obviously, someone is wrong. But who?

People in New Orleans are frankly skeptical of Garrison's case, knowing that the district attorney has a reputation for creating a theory to meet any contingency.

Still, they wonder why he would risk

his career by trying a prosperous and respected businessman, however vulnerable his private life might be, if he didn't have something with which to substantiate his charges.

And what gnaws at the minds of people everywhere is this: if Garrison, granting his penchant for creating headlines, is right, then someone has told the world a lie so monstrous as to be

virtually inconceivable.

That would mean someone either lied to or subverted the austere members of the Warren Commission; that the Dallas police department knowingly covered up a murder plot against the President; and that key members of the Central Intelligence Agency masterminded the whole affair.

Preposterous though that sounds, it is precisely what Jim Garrison claims he will prove in a New Orleans courtroom a week from Tuesday.

With theories implicating the Bay of Pigs, military might, double agents and the CIA, the case is a complex web of intrigue.

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What intrigues the New Orleans legal establishment, as well as the rest of the world, is what led Garrison to connect Shaw with this cast of psychotic characters.

Jack Ruby, an egocentric, smelting-plant operator, Ferrie, a convicted child molester, known homosexual and

religious cultist, and Lee Harvey Oswald, a discredited Marine, self-proclaimed Marxist, and pro-Cuban agitator who once fled to Russia.

These were hardly the sort of people that Shaw, a man with the public image as a dynamic, intellectual businessman and cultural leader, could be expected to know, much less associate

with.

Shaw, 55, has a sort of Stevensonian wit and urbanity that have made him a highly-prized after-dinner speaker. He has been knighted by the King of Belgium and holds high honors from several other European countries, including France.

Most of these honors have to do with New Orleans' International Trade Mart, a clearing house for trade with Latin America.

Shaw founded the World War II veterans' organization in the years ago to

help the war veterans who

had returned home with

physical disabilities

and mental problems

and went on to

become a prominent

businessman and

community leader

Shaw said in one of his infrequent statements: "It is still hard to believe this has happened. I sleep about 24 hours a day, often when I go to bed, my friends will try not to talk about it. But inevitably, before very long, the conversation gets around to it. So I usually try to put my friends at ease by talking about it myself."

It was the day after Shaw's arrest that Garrison first revealed some of the details of his charges.

He filed a court affidavit naming

Oswald, Ferrie and Shaw as conspirators who met in September of 1963 at Ferrie's apartment to plot the Kennedy assassination. He said he would produce a witness.

At the time, no one knew who that would be. The weakness of this maneuver was obvious; of those at the meeting, only the mystery witness and Shaw, if he was indeed there, were still alive.

Oswald, of course had been gunned down by Ruby, and Ferrie, in a state of paranoia and hypertension over his belief that Garrison thought he was the get-away pilot in the assassination plot, died in his bed a week before Shaw's arrest.

Though he left two suicide notes, the coroner ruled that Ferrie's death was due to natural causes.

Garrison's affidavit contained one other beachhead. It charged that Shaw led a double life under the alias Clay or Clem Bertrand, a name identified with the shadowy queen bee of the city's homosexuals, Shaw denied it.

**B**UT GARRISON wasn't through. He said his investigators had searched Shaw's home, hauling out cardboard cartons filled with papers and clothing as well as a black cape and hood, whips, two chains, an Army issue cartridge belt, a shotgun and several account books. Shaw's lawyers said the search was illegal because their client had been under arrest at the time.

For nearly two weeks, New Orleans teemed with curiosity about Garrison's witness while Shaw remained at home in his remodeled carriage house, shunning reporters.

Why, the city wondered, would Shaw, an open admirer of President Kennedy, take part in an assassination conspiracy? After all, the trade mart had everything to gain from JFK's continued existence. The Alliance for Progress had opened new vistas for the mart in Latin America.

And why, they also asked, would anyone who heard a conversation about a conspiracy wait more than three years to come forward with his information?

Some of the answers came on March 14 when a panel of three judges began to hear testimony in a preliminary hearing to determine if there really was enough evidence against Shaw to try him.

The mystery witness turned out to be one Parry Raymond Russo, a 25-year-old life insurance salesman from Baton

Rouge who had once been David Ferrie's roommate in New Orleans.

If Shaw was a pillar of New Orleans society, Russo's character was unblemished. He was the one solid figure among the throng of psychopathic liars, deviates and narcotics addicts that Garrison has waded through since he launched his investigation.

Russo testified that he had gone to Ferrie's apartment in September of 1963 with several friends. A party was in progress.

When it ended, Russo said, his friends left and the only people in the room with him were Ferrie, Oswald (whom he knew as "Leon" Oswald) and Shaw, whom he knew as Clay Bertrand.

In a moment of high drama, Russo left his chair to point out Shaw, who sat tensely in the room.

"The discussion centered around the fact that an assassination attempt would have to use diversionary tactics. There was talk of triangulation of crossfire as diversionary action.

"Ferrie would put up three fingers to demonstrate. One of the people would shoot a diversionary shot, maybe one or two people would do it and the third person would do the direct hit and be the good shot.

"Thereafter, one of these three would be termed the scapegoat. One of them would have to be sacrificed while the others got away by plane to either Brazil or Cuba."

**A**NOTHER TIME, Ferrie testified, he saw Oswald, who had originally met Ferrie at a Civil Air Patrol meeting, in Ferrie's apartment with a rifle. He said Oswald was sitting on the sofa cleaning the weapon, which was equipped with a telescopic sight. He described the gun as an old-fashioned bolt-action rifle.

At another meeting of the alleged conspirators, Russo said, there was an argument about where they should fly after the assassination. He said at one point Oswald leaped to his feet and told Shaw: "Shut up!" adding that Ferrie was the pilot and knew what was best.

Russo testified that Shaw

Russo said he had attended a dedication ceremony attended by President Kennedy in New Orleans. He also said that he had identified Shaw as Bertrand when Garrison's investigators took him to Shaw's home and had him pose as a salesman.

There were holes in Russo's testimony. Among other things, hypnotic suggestion had been used in Garrison's office to help the witness reconstruct the events.

Also, Russo was incorrect when he said he had seen Oswald in New Orleans as late as October of the year Kennedy was shot. Oswald was in Dallas at that time.

And, on top of that, there was the damaging fact that Russo had appeared on a local television show three weeks before the hearing and said he had never heard of Oswald until he had seen him on TV after the assassination.

Shaw's lawyers ripped into Russo's

testimony in a bitter, blistering and ineffectual cross-examination. Asked why he had waited so long to come forward with his information, Russo explained he was only 22 at the time and hadn't been prepared to buck the conclusions of the Warren Commission and the federal government. Then he added:

"I was just a voice in the wilderness. I left it to the professionals and forgot about it. Then Garrison began his probe and said he could prove there was a conspiracy, so I decided to write to Shaw."

Russo admitted that after the Kennedy assassination he did not definitely connect the man he knew as "Leon" Oswald with Lee Harvey Oswald, although he had seen pictures of Oswald on TV and in the newspapers.

Oswald wore a beard when he met him, Russo said, but was clean shaven after the killing.

Defense lawyers asked Russo if he didn't think it strange that three conspirators would let a witness sit in on the planning sessions if the witness had nothing to do with the plot.

Russo replied:

"Oswald looked up and said, 'What the hell is he doing here?' to which Shaw added, 'It's risky. We shouldn't have anyone hear that sort of stuff.'"

"Am I to understand that you sat there all through the conversation and

said not one word?" asked one of Shaw's lawyers.

"Yes, sir," said Russo. "It was their business and I wasn't particularly interested."

Russo testified for three days, closing with the admission that he had been under psychiatric treatment for a year until the middle of 1960.

Following Russo to the stand was a self-confessed heroin addict, a Negro named Vernon Bundy, 29, of New Orleans, who swore that he had seen Oswald and Shaw together on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain the summer before Kennedy was killed.

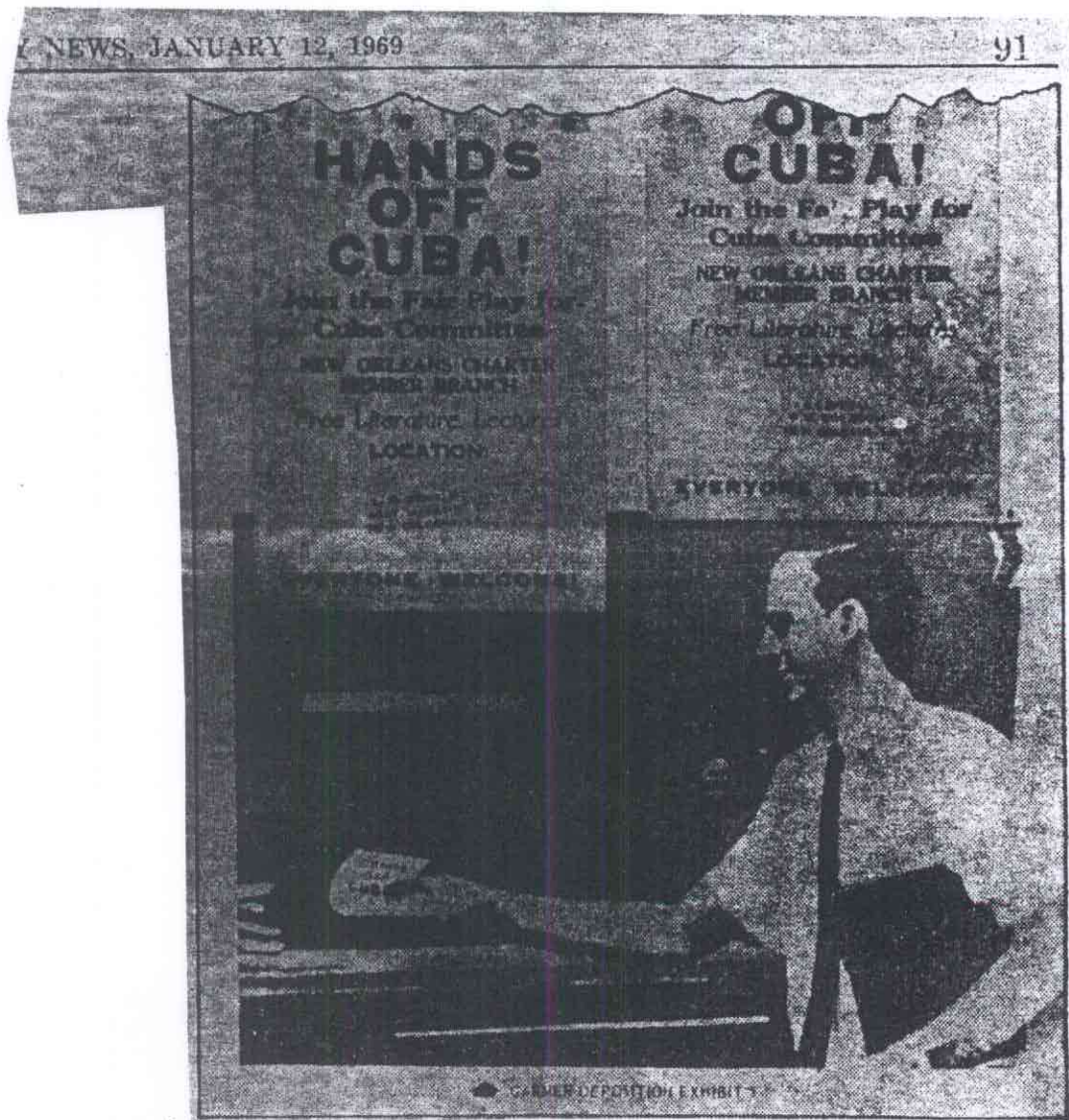
Bundy said yellow leaflets fell from Oswald's pocket, and when he later picked one up it was a "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" tract that Oswald is known to have passed out in front of the traitor.

Bundy testified he heard Oswald ask Shaw, "What am I going to tell her?" a presumed reference to Marina, his wife.

He said Shaw replied, "Don't worry about it. I told you I'm going to take care of you."

The defense position was that Garrison was resting his entire case on two questionable witnesses: a man who waited three years to step forward, and an admitted drug addict.

"This man [Shaw]," said William



Wegmann, "is entitled to the benefit of the doubt because the state does not have probable cause. It might have suspicions, it might have theories, it might have beliefs, but we are entitled to walk out of this court without any stigma until such time as the state can produce evidence to warrant trial.

"You judges will be in the position to say to this man: 'You are one of the people who might...'

His plea fell on deaf ears. The judges agreed unanimously that Shaw would have to stand trial. The decision came on March 17, 1967, Shaw's birthday. As the decision was read, he pressed down with his fingers on the defense table as if for support.

**U**NDER Louisiana law, Garrison could have filed the charge of conspiracy to commit murder with the county clerk and brought Shaw to trial. He chose, instead, to cement the authenticity of his case by submitting it to the Orleans Parish (county) grand jury.

If the blue ribbon panel refused to indict, what the three judges had decided would no longer matter. Clay Shaw would be free. Instead, the jury indicted him.

The name Clay Bertrand figured prominently in its deliberation. One witness, Jefferson Parish assistant district attorney Dean Andrews Jr., was subsequently indicted and convicted of perjury in connection with conflicting statements about whether Shaw and Bertrand were the same man. He is appealing the conviction.

In the months that followed Shaw's indictment—he is still free on \$10,000 bail and will remain so throughout the trial—rumor was piled upon rumor as Garrison gathered more and more headlines with a cast of characters who, he said, figured in one way or another in the assassination.

Cuban nationals were prominent among them. Somehow Garrison weaved the Cubans into his theory that the Kennedy killing was a right-wing plot, fomented by the CIA.

Incredibly, Garrison even charged that President Johnson knowingly concealed information about the death of his predecessor. He complained, too, that vital information had been put under seal for 45 years in the National Archives; he was only half joking when he told a reporter that the solution might come only in the year 2000 when the sealed information will be declassified.

Subpoenas, extradition papers and wild accusations came with staccato rapidity after Shaw was indicted.

Word soon leaked that Shaw had made two slips when he was questioned in Garrison's office in December of 1966, more than two months before he was arrested.

Shaw swore that he had never met Oswald, but admitted his assistant at the trade mart, J. B. Dauenhauer, had given Oswald permission to distribute

The Warren and Garrison versions of Oswald's activities agree that he was in New Orleans a few months before the assassination. This commission exhibit places him in the city on Aug. 16, 1963. Garrison says Oswald also was in New Orleans the following month, plotting a...  
...trick ex-

pro-Cuban leaflets in front of the building. Dauenhauer denied this.

Then Shaw said he was on a plane to California at the time JFK was shot. In fact, he was already in San Francisco that day.

It developed that Garrison had become interested in Shaw when he learned that an old friend of David Ferrie's lived next door to Shaw on Dauphine St., and that Ferrie had made a trip to Galveston and Houston the day of the assassination. Garrison assumed (whether correctly or not remains to be seen) that Shaw and Ferrie knew each other.

Since it was known that Oswald and Ferrie had met, Garrison concluded that Shaw might have known Oswald, too. He came to a number of other conclusions also, most of them still unproved.

One of the most intriguing was that Oswald, instead of being the assassin, never fired a shot that tragic day in Dallas.

**O**SWALD, Garrison believes, was the patsy, the fall guy who had to be killed by Ruby to keep him from exposing the whole plot.

Garrison is also fond of theorizing that Oswald had a double on several of his trips the summer before the assassination to further blur the case.

He also believes, disconcertingly, that Ruby was injected with live cancer cells in the Dallas jail to silence him and protect the allegedly CIA-spawned conspiracy. He is not clear as to why the CIA would have wanted Kennedy dead, and talks somewhat disappointedly about CIA "displeasure" with Kennedy's moves toward a lasting peace with both Russia and Cuba.

The cancer-cell theory becomes even more disconcerting when you consider that David Ferrie experimented with white rats in his apartment in New Orleans, trying to infect them with cancer cells. But a good many aspects of the case are disconcerting.

Take, for instance, the extraordinary number of deaths of persons who, directly, indirectly or by the slightest of connections, were involved in the swirl of events around Kennedy's assassination.

1) Patrolman J. D. Tippit, who presumably stopped Oswald after the assassination and was shot to death.

2) Oswald, gunned down by Ruby as the television cameras recorded the scene.

3) William Hunter, a newspaper reporter, who reportedly once attended a meeting in Ruby's apartment, killed when a policeman's gun accidentally discharged in Long Beach, Calif.

4) James Roethe, another reporter at that meeting, attacked by unknown as-

sailants who used a karate chop to murder him in his Dallas apartment.

5) Tom Howard, one of Ruby's lawyers, who died of a heart attack.

6) Thomas H. Killam, husband of a stripper at Ruby's Dallas nightclub, who fell to his death through a plate glass window in Pensacola, Fla.

7) Columnist Dorothy Kilgallen, who was granted a private interview with Ruby, died in her New York apartment of a combination of pills and alcohol.

8) William Whaley, the cab driver who took the fleeing Oswald home after the assassination, died in a car crash.

9) Karen Bennet Carlin, another Ruby nightclub performer and the last person to talk to Ruby before the Oswald murder, killed by gunshot wounds in Houston.

10) Mrs. Earlene Roberts, the landlady at Oswald's Dallas rooming house who died of a heart attack.

11) Nancy Mooney, a former stripper at Ruby's club, who hanged herself in a Dallas jail cell.

12) Lee E. Bowers Jr., a bystander who saw a car speeding from the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza from which Garrison and several witnesses believe shots were fired the day Kennedy died. He was killed in a car crash.

13) Jack Ruby, who died of cancer at Parkland Hospital.

14) David Ferrie, the accused getaway pilot, who, a coroner said, died of natural causes—and left two suicide notes.

15) CIA agent J. Garret Underhill, who believed there was an assassination conspiracy within his own agency. He committed suicide.

16) Hugh Ward, New Orleans private investigator linked to Oswald, killed in a plane crash in Mexico.

17) Guy Bannister, Ward's partner, who died of a heart attack.

18) Robert Perrin, self-styled gun-runner and acquaintance of Ruby's, who was found dead of arsenic poisoning, a supposed suicide.

19) Rose Cheramie, who said she was thrown from a moving car by Ruby associates, was later killed in hit-and-run accident.

20) Dr. Mary Sherman of New Orleans, who was hacked to death in her apartment with a kitchen knife. She once helped Ferrie with his cancer-cell experiments on mice.

Such a list of deaths, even coincidental deaths, gives pause to even the most determined detractor of Jim Garrison. Are his wild theories really all that wild?

As one New Orleans reporter said of next week's trial of Clay Shaw:

"Jim Garrison may be 90% hot air, but watch out for the other 10%."