

There's Nothing But A Rage
Garrison's Rage

There were reports following the prompt acquittal of Clay Shaw, that District Attorney Jim Garrison gave full vent to his feelings. His bellows of outrage, it was said, penetrated the closed doors of his office and echoed through the New Orleans Criminal District Court building.

Garrison has now translated that verbal explosion into a demonstration of legal rage.

Prudence dictates a suspension of judgment until Garrison reveals his basis for the charges of perjury against Shaw for denying that he knew Ferrie or Oswald. But Garrison's record in his relentless pursuit of the assassination conspiracy is clearly enough established to justify extreme skepticism.

One thing is certain. The prosecution will have to do quite a bit better with the perjury case than he did with his conspiracy, or the outcome is preordained.

Ten witnesses were produced linking Shaw to Oswald and Ferrie. They fell into two categories: Those whose character and/or mental condition made their testimony unworthy of belief, and those whose claimed recollection of long-past events made their testimony difficult to believe.

One of Garrison's lieutenants was reported to have said that "we can produce a dozen more witnesses" to establish a relationship between the three men. That may well be true. Garrison's knack at producing witnesses to testify according to his wishes has been duly noted, and is to be the subject of an investigation by the American Bar Association.

What is needed is quality, not quantity. Garrison should produce some witnesses that can be believed — some indication that there is substance to the charge more than the personal rage of a vindictive prosecutor.