

Garrison & JFK's assassination

The whole story & nothing but the whole story

by Ron Rosenbaum

It's official now. The legal proceedings of District Attorney Jim Garrison in the matter of the death of John F. Kennedy are officially over. On November 20 the Supreme Court ordered Garrison to cease prosecution of State of Louisiana v. Clay L. Shaw. It was a perjury case. Clay L. Shaw perjured himself, according to Garrison, when he denied meeting Lee Harvey Oswald. It was the last active case in Garrison's six-year-old assassination investigation. When the end came, Garrison did not take it quietly. Twenty-four hours after the adverse rul-

ing, he issued an intriguing nine-page statement. On the first page Garrison promised to reveal "for the first time ever" "exactly how, why, and by whom President Kennedy was assassinated"—all the details which Garrison maintained "restraints upon pre-trial publicity had forced him to keep quiet about until now." At last, in this statement, said Garrison, "he would unveil the whole story for the press and the public." The press ignored it. The Supreme Court ruling of the day before barely rated one wire ser-

vice paragraph in most papers. Garrison's statement rated one paragraph less. Ten days later a Xerox copy of the forlorn statement arrived in the mail at The Voice. On the top of the first page was a handwritten note: "Local press not interested. Perhaps you will be." I G. and I were interested. I was interested. I was particularly interested in names. In the six years since his investigation became "public," Garrison had named a few names. He even indicted two people as middle-level conspirators. But he had never, to my knowledge, named the men at the top and the bottom of the conspiracy he said he had uncovered—the men at the top who plotted and ordered the assassination and the men at the bottom—the ones who actually fired the shots in Dallas on November 22, 1963. In this farewell statement, Garrison does name certain names—he hints at others, and he leaves certain others unpointedly unnamed. Note: *italics* indicate names. *italics* David M. Shoup, retired general of the Marines, is one name named. According to Garrison's statement, President Kennedy was "murdered upon the direct orders of the powerful military chieftains of the Pentagon—with the notable exception of the Marine Commandant, General David Shoup who remained loyal to him—in concert with the dominant elements of the Central Intelligence Agency." *italics* mine. *italics* Garrison does not, however, go on to name the names of these "powerful military chieftains" of the Pentagon at the pinnacle of the conspiracy. Nevertheless, by declaring General Shoup innocent, Garrison implicitly points his finger at the remaining four generals who comprised the Joint

Chiefs of Staff in November 1963.

Then there is the name Lee Harvey Oswald; is mentioned in passing in Garrison's statement, but only as a scapegoat planted in the Texas School Book Depository. These instruments by which the government drew the eyes of the world away from its professional assassins.

And those "professional assassins." Garrison does not name them. From his statement it seems there were at least four of them: two riflemen firing from the grassy knoll in front of the President's limousine, and two firing from behind.

The names of those four Joint Chiefs of Staff are in the public domain. According to the World Almanac of 1964 they are: Maxwell Taylor, Earl Wheeler, Curtis Le May, and David McDonald.

But now that his last case is closed, the names of those four "professional assassins" are the private property of Jim Garrison. On December 12 I placed a call to Garrison, hoping that among other things, he would tell me the names of the men who pulled the triggers.

The first thing I did, however, when Garrison returned my call, was clear up the identity of the "powerful military chieftains." Were they in fact the Joint Chiefs of Staff sans Shoup? If so, why didn't Garrison come right out and name them in his statement?

"Yes it was the Joint Chiefs," Garrison told me promptly. "It's been apparent to me that they've obviously been the instigating source. I don't name 'em by individual."

Continued on next page

Continued from page 1
know that he was one of the two riflemen at the front.

Jim Garrison's term as district attorney has two more years to go. He was re-elected in 1970 even after he lost his race against Clay Shaw, but he lost a race for a State Supreme Court judgeship last June. Not long after the race was in on that loss, Garrison's wife filed for a divorce. Close friends of Garrison believe his health is failing. He failed this spring a trial on Clay Shaw's \$5 million suit against him for malicious prosecution. Then there was the \$100,000 libel conspiracy judgment still pending against the recalcitrant and mysterious behavior of Pershing General, the chief informant against Garrison in the case.

Garrison discussed in great detail such cases with a fair degree of equanimity. "I don't know what happened, maybe there's something wrong with me. They seem to have a way of tearing the hell out of everyone else. Of course, still got to go through with his fucking trial in the Clay Shaw suit, but hell, I know they're gonna charge me a price when I realize who was involved. I don't know what the price is going to be, the price is going to be very high. I'm not going to pay the price."

After a brief pause, Garrison

continued, "I don't know what the price is going to be, the price is going to be very high. I'm not going to pay the price."

Continued on next page

any more. No one seems to believe him, anymore. He is having trouble getting out of his office. He doesn't know anything about it. "I don't know what happened and have no communication because it's available than 'Know what happened' and find that the national press does not want to hear it. I know the facts so clearly you know what I mean. It's not my guess. It's not my feeling it's so clear that it's goddam clear, and all of a sudden I find that you can't communicate it. You can't communicate it. You can't communicate it. For the most part he has given up trying. For instance, he is very reluctant to talk to anyone to whom he can't communicate. He told me to attempt to contact General Shoup, the man he believes is the lone assassin in the Johnson assassination. Now he told me, "We can't tell you where the government people you have to see are in their ways. They've done such a disguised operation that I'm reluctant to try and contact them like that. He doesn't know and all he does know is what action I am going to take. They're very efficient at that."

"Nor will he make any attempt to teach the Kennedy family what he learned over backwards to avoid contacting them directly because he feels like so many nuts have been around him."

Garrison, looking tired and worn, of the 45-year-old investigator, said he called Garrison out of the one-hour-long phone call. "Garrison is never far from some point in 'Heritage of Stone.' His own book is a history of information which led him to write his about other books by Clay Shaw and the Warren Commission."

"Now my book is different from

the other books. Now, I don't know if you told me my book had you somewhere. It told you basically where they have laid. The other books well, you've got to be very careful about it. OK, all right. So this Meagher's book that do nothing but make things more confusing for you and take you nowhere.

Sylvia Meagher, for the umpteenth time, has laid out her analysis of the Warren Report, an analysis advanced by one school of assassination investigators as a most thorough and devastating compilation of their inaccuracies and inadequacies. She Warren Report evidence that Oswald was the lone assassin. She also claims that she has come to realize that we can't depend on that kind of research. Despite the many efforts of Meagher, condemns him forever in pursuit through a swamp of miasma in pursuit of elusive details which lead on to further Zimmerman details, and never to the truth. The Truth, Garrison says, is reached only when a bright light is thrown upon the details abandoned and events are looked at from a perspective which does not rely on the box of the assassination. Garrison continues, "I told [Weber] about Vietnam and the unknown number of dead people. He was shocked and you come to the conclusion that it had to be the Joint Chiefs who ordered it just like you look at the photos of Wallace in the context of the Democratic Party and the election and you begin to see what's behind it." Garrison even hints that in their single-minded concern for details some of the assassination investigators

scionly or unconsciously serving the CIA/Pentagon cabal. "They don't mind a book that's full of these details. In fact, look at the back, it's pretty clear that in the killing of Kennedy they wanted a certain amount of sensing for the part of people they wanted certain details to be omitted, certain details in

Washington. Congress would know who was involved behind the whole thing—not in a clear way but enough so they could have the proper degree of fear enough to induce them to accept what the Warren report quietly rather than go where the real probabilities lay. And that's what Garrison believes may have led the fatal shot.

Garrison accepted this confession with mixed or general tolerance for "human failing." He was confident he would learn to regret his own past. "I went to New Orleans to polish his files and discuss such matters as Mr. [John] F. [Kennedy] details."

"Before our conversation began I asked Garrison whom he was speaking to in the public. He was shocked and you come to the conclusion that it had to be the Joint Chiefs who ordered it just like you look at the photos of Wallace in the context of the Democratic Party and the election and you begin to see what's behind it." Garrison even hints that in their single-minded concern for details some of the assassination inves-

tigators in the long run were serving the CIA/Pentagon cabal. "They don't mind a book that's full of these details. In fact, look at the back, it's pretty clear that in the killing of Kennedy they wanted a certain amount of sensing for the part of people they wanted certain details to be omitted, certain details in

Washington. Congress would know who was involved behind the whole thing—not in a clear way but enough so they could have the proper degree of fear enough to induce them to accept what the Warren report quietly rather than go where the real probabilities lay. And that's what Garrison believes may have led the fatal shot.

Garrison accepted this confession with mixed or general tolerance for "human failing." He was confident he would learn to regret his own past. "I went to New Orleans to polish his files and discuss such matters as Mr. [John] F. [Kennedy] details."

"Before our conversation began I asked Garrison whom he was speaking to in the public. He was shocked and you come to the conclusion that it had to be the Joint Chiefs who ordered it just like you look at the photos of Wallace in the context of the Democratic Party and the election and you begin to see what's behind it." Garrison even hints that in their single-minded concern for details some of the assassination inves-

tigators in the long run were serving the CIA/Pentagon cabal. "They don't mind a book that's full of these details. In fact, look at the back, it's pretty clear that in the killing of Kennedy they wanted a certain amount of sensing for the part of people they wanted certain details to be omitted, certain details in

Washington. Congress would know who was involved behind the whole thing—not in a clear way but enough to induce them to accept what the Warren report quietly rather than go where the real probabilities lay. And that's what Garrison believes may have led the fatal shot.