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'Claims' Garrison No Buffoon

By HENRY J. TAYLOR

NEW ORLEANS—District Attorney Jim Garrison, widely buffeted by the press as a buffoon who has no case, is no buffoon to this writer. And the case he laid out to me contains several impressive features—provided you have studied the Warren Commission report.

That's the first rub. The report's 26 volumes of hearings include 3154 exhibits, the testimony of 552 witnesses and transcriptions, reports or affidavits covering 26,550—yes, 26,550—interviews by FBI, Secret Service and other investigative agencies. The report has 17,815 pages, totals 10.4 million words and weighs 65 pounds. But it's impossible to evaluate Garrison's points unless you've done this homework.



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To comprehend his claims at all you have to rethink the whole case.

CONSIDER THE commission as serving chiefly as a jury. As a jury it reached a decision on the evidence obtained by the investigative agencies. The depth and scope of the work these agencies did is astounding, although little appreciated. But the conclusions are those of the commission, subject to the same arguments you might apply if you disagreed with a jury's findings.

In the commission's judgment Lee Harvey Oswald, a pro-Communist, killed President Kennedy, acted alone in doing so, and there was no conspiracy. Garrison begins with a totally different approach.

"I was forced to," he told me, "as various pieces of evidence began coming in here in New Orleans."

SOME OF THESE pieces came from a miserable collection of hoodlums whom Garrison calls "terrible witnesses I am confronted with." But other pieces that appear to contradict the commission's judgment stand on their own merits. And several of them put the fat in the fire.

All available evidence cause the commission to conclude that Oswald did not know Jack Ruby, who killed him; and arrested New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw contends that he knew neither Oswald nor Ruby.

Garrison turned to Volume XVI, Page 58, of the commission's report. Oswald kept a diary. It is filled with cryptic figures and notations, including references to guns and microdots, the method of microscopic photographic reproduction. Page 58 shows a note Oswald made: "P.O. Box 19106," the published report of which brought me back here to New Orleans. For Clay Shaw's notebook, seized when his home was searched on the day (March 1) Garrison arrested Shaw, contains the identical note.

GARRISON DEMONSTRATED for me the simple code that translates "P.O. Box 19106" into Whitehall 1-5601. Garrison found that Ruby had an unpublished telephone number in Dallas in 1963. And that number was Whitehall 1-5601.

This development would connect Oswald with both Shaw and Ruby.

Moreover, by the same simple code, Oswald consistently employs 4900 and 1300 as routine masking numbers. Garrison pointed out to me that Oswald lived here on Magazine-st's 4900 block; Shaw lives on Dauphonest's 1300 block. Shaw's defense attorneys scoff at the code. But Garrison demonstrated it practically at random from Oswald's diary.

THE MAN GARRISON now wants most to find is a Latin, likewise revealed, whom Garrison has traced back to the Bay of Pigs debacle.

In fact, Garrison traces his whole case back to the Bay of Pigs. "You have to start there or you get no place in the New Orleans evidence," he said.

Although I must oversimplify it herein, this will be his contention to the court:

That Cuban anti-Castro refugees, bitterly disillusioned by the Bay of Pigs debacle, including some employed in it by our Central Intelligence Agency, took out their anger on President Kennedy—especially after his emotionally stirring promise to the freedom fighters in Miami "to return their flag to you in a free Cuba" proved not to be the U.S. plan at all.

THAT OSWALD WAS produced as a "billboard character" who flaunted his pro-Communist fervor and thus increased the possibility that the wrath of America might precipitate real action for our freedom of Cuba.

That the conspirators were playing a double-game: Retribution against President Kennedy and crystallization of the hatred of Castro.

Garrison can well be wrong, but certain parts of his New Orleans evidence will require a great deal of explaining sooner or later.

*The Break I mentioned last
letter - Right Wing Cal - all the
details - more insight*

MORE PROBING

Haunting Questions About Oswald

By HENRY J. TAYLOR

NEW ORLEANS — District Attorney Jim Garrison asks several questions about Lee Harvey Oswald which — seeking the truth about Oswald in many places — I have often asked myself.

All the findings are official and in the Warren Commission report. But the answers are not.

Oswald's problem was his getaway.

On Page 279 of the report it says: "Although it is possible that Oswald intended to continue on to Russia from Cuba, the evidence makes it more likely that he intended to remain in Cuba".

On Sept. 25, two months before the assassination, Oswald left New Orleans for Mexico City. He was there until Oct. 3.

At the Cuban embassy he presented New Orleans newspaper clippings about his pro-Castro activities, announced he was a member of the Communist Party, displayed his Russian work permit, Russian marriage certificate, a prepared statement of his qualifications as a dedicated Marxist and, in the words of the report, "tried to curry favor."

OSWALD WAS familiar with passport and visa problems. Yet he coupled his application for a transit visa through Cuba with an application for a Soviet visa to enter Russia, which was self-defeating.

The Cuban transit visa could only be issued after the Soviet visa was granted — a matter of several months. Told this at both the Cuban and Soviet embassies, Oswald left Mexico City for Fort Worth and Dallas — empty-handed. If this was his getaway plan it was, by the facts disclosed, nonexistent.

MONEY? OSWALD left his last \$170 on the dresser at home before he went to work at the Book Depository Building on the morning of the President's murder. After he returned to his boarding house and changed his clothes he left the money still lying on his



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dresser. Oswald had only small change on him when he was arrested.

What were Oswald's Communist activities here?

He had publicly labeled himself pro-Communist: Picketed the USS Wasp, dramatically passed out "Fair Play for Cuba" pamphlets, was arrested scuffling with anti-Castro Cubans in the street, and debated twice on the radio championing Castro's cause.

But Garrison reports Oswald's after-hours associates in New Orleans were people known to be enemies of Castro and to have ties of bitterness against President Kennedy that go back to the Bay of Pigs debacle. And the Warren Report, in turn, states that Oswald was not active among Communists here or in Dallas.

"This is what started me wondering," Garrison told me.

THE OFFICIAL file bulges with Oswald's pro-Communist letters to the Soviet embassies in Mexico City and Washington, the Communist Party U.S. headquarters in New York, the Fair Play for Cuba Committee's New York headquarters, etc. Yet Oswald operated what was merely a facade here without doing real organizational work for his self-publicized Fair Play for Cuba Committee, consisting only of himself.

New Orleans Chief of Police Joseph I. Giarrusso, who reopened for me last December Oswald's arrest file here, and Capt. Thomas A. Drake, his intelligence division chief, both confirmed to me that their undercover informers in the city's Communist circles never encountered Oswald.

In claiming some answers to these questions, Garrison's answers remain to be proven. While our investigative agencies believe he may find a conspiracy was discussed in New Orleans, they are still convinced Garrison cannot tie either Oswald or Jack Ruby into it and they put no stock whatever in the code Garrison used to link Oswald, Ruby and New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw. But several questions themselves are legitimate. And they are haunting. From the beginning there has always been much more in the matter of Lee Harvey Oswald than met the eye.