

Kennedy inquiry man criticized

New Orleans awaits arrests

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT—NEW ORLEANS, FEB. 19

Some of the people of New Orleans were today accusing Mr. James Garrison, their District Attorney, of acting irresponsibly—and even, they claimed, of seeking publicity—with his weekend confirmation that he was conducting an investigation into the possibility that there was a plot to assassinate President Kennedy.

Mr. Garrison himself has attacked the local newspapers for upsetting his investigation by premature disclosure. Not only had they hindered him, he said, they had been unfair to persons whom he was now questioning.

The New Orleans *States-Item*, the newspaper which first published the news which now has everyone by the ears, has replied by calling on Mr. Garrison to give an explanation.

Some names known

Mr. Garrison was saying nothing today, after holding at least three press conferences at his office yesterday and telling reporters a variety of things. At his suburban home armed assistant attorneys came to the door merely to play what seemed like hide-and-seek with clusters of reporters.

The District Attorney has gone on record as promising that "arrests will be made, charges will be filed and convictions will be obtained" as a result of his inquiries, which have been going on here since last November. "We already have the names of the people in the initial planning, we are not wasting our time, and we will prove it", he said.

It may sound a bit sensational, and the newspaper offices are alive with activity but everyone here is really waiting

impatiently for Mr. Garrison to pounce with the arrests.

Mr. Garrison, a man of 6ft. 6in., in his forties, is a colourful figure. His office is an elective one and he has also thought of standing for the office of mayor and even of Senator. Last year he won a second term of office after a turbulent campaign.

He has sent men into the night haunts of the French quarter to straighten out morals, and he also had a prolonged battle with New Orleans judges, whom he accused of being work-shy. He was acquitted by the state Supreme Court

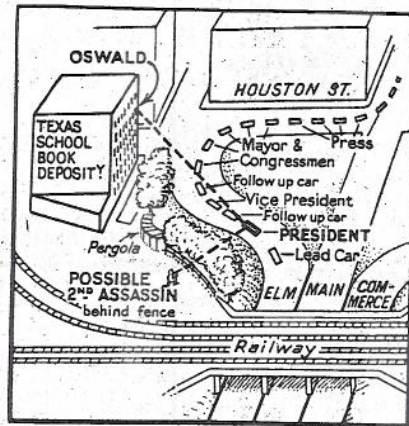


Mr. Jim Garrison, the New Orleans District Attorney.

when the judges brought proceedings to clear their names.

He holds that there should now be several investigations of the Kennedy assassination, including one by the Federal authorities. His own has so far cost \$8,000, a rather paltry sum by the standards of New Orleans vice clean-up inquiries. He has refused to name any suspects.

A 26-year-old Cuban is detained in the parish gaol here, said to have been a near neighbour of Oswald. A New



The motor procession in Dealey Plaza, Dallas, showing the positions of Oswald and a possible second assassin.]

Orleans commercial pilot has publicly claimed that his activities during the week of the Kennedy assassination have been looked into by Mr. Garrison's office. He has called the investigation "a joke".

'False Oswald'

Our Washington Correspondent writes:—

The District Attorney's office in New Orleans is understood to be pursuing a line of inquiry related to the theory of a "false Oswald".

Chief Justice Warren has refused to comment, and the secret service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are also silent. Mr. John McCloy, who was a member of the Warren Commission, said that Oswald's activities in New Orleans were investigated by the commission but no evidence was produced.

Oswald and the Cubans, page 12.