

# F.B.I. kept out of Kennedy inquiry

## Rebuff by New Orleans official

From RICHARD WIGG--NEW ORLEANS, FEB. 20

Mr. Jim Garrison, the New Orleans District Attorney, who is investigating the possibility that there was a plot to assassinate President Kennedy, today blamed the present publicity for putting back "certainly for months" results that might have been a few weeks away.

He could not say when there would be any arrests and disclosed that he would have to borrow money from the banks to continue the inquiry.

Mr. Garrison called the press conference to proclaim that his guiding principle in the inquiry was "Let justice be done, though the heavens fall in".

It was a flamboyant affair, reminiscent of the ways of some Southern politicians in these parts, held in the patio of a motel about a mile from the District Attorney's office. He roundly attacked the two local newspapers who first broke the story about his investigations, excluding them from the press conference evidently as a punishment for what he described as "probably an historical act of irresponsibility in journalism".

Television cameras and reporters had been waiting all day yesterday and since 9 a.m. today for the chance to see the District Attorney.

This was going to be his last press conference on the assassination plot, Mr. Garrison announced, so that he and his staff could get back on to their work.

There were "men" involved in the plot, he said, but refused to say how many and replied "no comment" when asked whether their involvement was in the shooting at Dallas as well. For three months he had been looking into whether there had been more than one gunman in Dallas, he said, and that was all he could add now.

### Texas doubts

When asked why, if he needed more money and his small investigating staff, which includes one private detective, was almost overburdened, it would not be better to call in outside help, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he replied: "And have another three years delay?"

But Mr. Garrison repeated again he was confident he would get convictions both on the count of conspiracy and on that of being accessory after the fact

and having substantial knowledge of the offence and withholding it.

Mr. Garrison repeatedly accused the New Orleans newspapers *States-Item* and *Times-Picayune*, owned by one proprietor, of "symbolizing" those forces in the country which, he said, wanted to let things be with the findings of the Warren Commission.

### Getaway pilot

He proceeded to dismiss most of the details given by the two local newspapers of witnesses he allegedly has interviewed, or been interested in, stating specifically that neither the Cuban, now in the local parish goal, nor the New Orleans commercial pilot, allegedly the getaway pilot in the plot, had been useful. He did not even know yet if there had been a getaway pilot.

As a result of the publicity many witnesses would probably be more difficult now to get hold of, Mr. Garrison said. The borrowed money, however, would be used in part to advertise in Southern newspapers where he intended to conduct inquiries.

It might be worth recalling that it was Mr. Garrison who only on Saturday confirmed the local newspapers' stories and promised arrests, charges and convictions.