

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

LEAVING LIFE 'SWEET PROSPECT'**Ferrie Note Attacks 'Unjust'
Law Enforcement System**

A typewritten note found in the apartment of David William Ferrie on the day of his death contains a bitter indictment of law enforcement officers, courts and American justice in general.

It concludes, "If this be justice, then justice be damned." Ferrie, whom District Attorney Jim Garrison calls a key figure in his investigation of the slaying of President John F. Kennedy, was found dead in his apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy. last Tuesday.

GARRISON REFERS TO FERRIE'S DEATH as a suicide, but Parish Coroner Dr. Nicholas Chetta said Ferrie died of a brain hemorrhage.

The first paragraph of the note, which was undated, was revealed previously, but the remainder of the text was kept secret while the investigation progressed. Tests revealed the note was written on a typewriter found in the apartment.

Today, the States-Item obtained the full text for the first time. It reads:

"To leave this life is, for me, a sweet prospect. I find nothing in it that is desirable, and on the other hand everything that is loathsome.

"DAILY WE ARE PROPAGANDIZED more and more about a rising crime rate. But how do we know it is true? We don't, for we Americans have little or no access to the truth. Today I went to the police headquarters to see these 'public records' of this rising crime rate and nearly wound in jail for my trouble. I was searched, interrogated, verbally abused, had my record checked, and finally threatened. Needless to say, I did not see the 'public records.'

"Still more irking is to hear a superintendent of police, who rose through the ranks (thus proving that zero times zero equals super zero) stating that the solution to the crime problem was tighter and more stringent laws." A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1
STATES-ITEM
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PRESIDENT JOHN F.
KENNEDY, DALLAS, TEXAS
11-22-63
Character: AFO
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~~some~~ messianic district attorney concurred. ~~Together~~ these men proved themselves utterly unfit for office, just as they proved that an electorate cannot be depended on to pick the right man. The problems of crime rest deep in society. The problems exist in the existence of divorce and the absence of regulations.

"No parents would send him child to an amateur for dental work, nor a quack for an appendectomy. Yet what atrocious negligence is permitting other amateurs to raise children. Mere kids are allowed to marry because they have the 'urge.' How stupid can you get? Every expert tells in detail how children must be cared for physically, emotionally and intellectually. Yet society lets girls and boys, not yet capable of love, beget children who, love-starved, turn to crime for some sort of identification. However, I don't think we will often see a district attorney or a police chief with brains to realize this.

"WE PAY SO MUCH ATTENTION to the law. I have not figured out the reason. I have watched judges like . . . at work. The various police and district attorneys and the like get to bend the judge's ear long before the trial. These judges of today deny defendants due process of the law. They permit the state to try the case in chambers, to have district attorneys form their opinions and decisions long before the defense gets a chance. Further, these same judges ~~and I am~~ afraid it pertains to nearly all of ~~them~~ then comment, by word, glance, gesture or remark, on the evidence in front of a jury. If the defendant wins, these judges take it as a personal insult.

"When I was a boy my father preached that in the 'American way of life' you are innocent till proven guilty. No greater lie has been told. The man charged before the court has flat got to prove his innocence. Go witness a criminal trial and watch. The state is supposed to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. If you read decisions of the various courts of appeal and the Supreme Court you discover that truth and falsehood, right and wrong have no place in court. All the state needs is 'evidence to support a conviction.' If this is justice, then justice be damned."

FERRIE HAD NEVER BEEN convicted of any crime, but had had several run-ins with the law. He was accused of two morals violations several years ago, but he was found not guilty on one charge and other charges against him were dismissed. He was held for short periods and questioned in the Kennedy slaying investigation, both by local and federal authorities.

No charges were known to be pending against him at the time of his death.

There was no indication how long before his death he ~~wrote the note, or when he made the visit to police headquarters~~ ~~to which he refers.~~