

(330)

NEW ORLEANS, FEB. 19 (AP)--DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON SAID TODAY "IRRESPONSIBLE" PUBLICITY MAY SLOW HIS KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PROBE AND COULD ENDANGER LIVES.

THE 6-FOOT-6 DISTRICT ATTORNEY, HOWEVER, REAFFIRMED HIS STATEMENT THAT ARRESTS WILL BE MADE AND THAT HE THINKS CONVICTIONS WILL RESULT.

GARRISON REJECTED A SUGGESTION FROM REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH., IN WASHINGTON, THAT HE GIVE HIS INFORMATION TO THE U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO COULD PASS IT ON TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

"I AM RUNNING THIS INVESTIGATION, NOT THE PRESIDENT, NOT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL," SAID GARRISON.

"WE ARE INVESTIGATING A CONSPIRACY WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE OCCURRED IN NEW ORLEANS AND THEY DON'T HAVE A THING IN THE WORLD TO DO WITH IT. NOW, IF THEY WANT TO HELP ME, I'LL WELCOME THEIR HELP. BUT I'M NOT REPORTING TO ANYBODY."

GARRISON, 44, SAID INVOLVEMENT WITH FEDERAL OFFICERS WOULD SLOW HIS INVESTIGATION.

THE CONTROVERSIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS OUT TO PROVE THAT A CONSPIRACY CONCEIVED HERE "CULMINATED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF "PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY IN DALLAS NOV. 22, 1963.

THERE IS NO QUESTION, HE SAID, THAT OTHERS BESIDES LEE HARVEY OSWALD--A FORMER NEW ORLEANS RESIDENT--WERE INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY.

THIS GOES COUNTER TO THE WARREN COMMISSION, WHICH SAID ITS EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION SHOWED THAT OSWALD SHOT THE PRESIDENT--AND THAT THERE WAS NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE THAT ANYONE ELSE WAS IMPLICATED.

GARRISON SAID HE WAS MAKING SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS BEFORE A NEW ORLEANS NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED A STORY ON THE INVESTIGATION.

IN MIAMI, CUBAN EXILE BERNARDO TORRES, 32, WHO HELPED THE SECRET SERVICE GUARD PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN MIAMI FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION, SAID HE HAS BEEN HELPING GARRISON AND BELIEVES THE WARREN REPORT WILL BE PROVED INCOMPLETE.

TORRES SAID GARRISON ENGAGED HIM TO LOOK INTO THE BACKGROUND OF SOME CUBANS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN WITH OSWALD SHORTLY BEFORE THE SHOOTING IN DALLAS.

HE DECLINED TO DISCUSS REPORTS THAT SOME EXILES, ANGRY AT KENNEDY'S DECISION TO STAY OUT OF FURTHER INVOLVEMENT IN CUBA'S BAY OF PIGS, WERE ABOUT TALKING ABOUT KILLING THE PRESIDENT.

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NEW ORLEANS--FIRST ADD GARRISON (A183NU) X X X THE PRESIDENT.

GARRISON, IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH WWL-TV, EMPHASIZED THAT THE "IRRESPONSIBLE" PUBLICITY WAS NEWSPAPER STORIES NAMING SOME OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED BY HIS AGENTS.

"WE HAVE NOT MENTIONED ANYONE'S NAME," HE SAID. "I THINK THAT ONE OF THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS THINGS, ONE OF THE MOST IRRESPONSIBLE THINGS PERPETRATED BY THE NEWSPAPERS IN THEIR SENSATIONAL GRAB OF OUR INVESTIGATION, TURNING IT INTO HEADLINES, WAS TO SHOW PICTURES OF INDIVIDUALS AND INFER THAT THEY WERE SUBJECTS EITHER ON THE VERGE OF ARREST OR TO BE ARRESTED DOWN THE LINE."

ASKED TO SUM UP HIS INVESTIGATION THUS FAR, HE REPLIED:

"WELL, I CAN'T SUM IT UP IN TERMS OF INDIVIDUALS OR WHAT MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE EVIDENCE. I CAN SAY THAT WE HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, AND WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS--I THINK SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS. AT LEAST, WE WERE MAKING PROGRESS UNTIL THE NEWSPAPERS REVEALED A NUMBER OF DETAILS."

GARRISON SAID PUBLICITY WOULD DELAY HIS PLANS TO MAKE ARRESTS.

"I CAN'T GUESS AT THE TIMETABLE NOW BECAUSE THE RATHER IRRESPONSIBLE RELEASE OF SO MANY DETAILS (BY THE NEW ORLEANS NEWSPAPERS) HAS NOW CREATED A PROBLEM FOR US IN FINDING WITNESSES AND GETTING COOPERATION FROM THE OTHER WITNESSES AND IN AT LEAST ONE CASE HAS ENDANGERED THE LIFE OF A WITNESS--A POSSIBLE WITNESS--SO THAT WHATEVER TIMETABLE WE MIGHT HAVE HAD BEFORE IS SOMEWHAT EXTENDED NOW. BUT IN MY JUDGMENT IT IS INEVITABLE THAT THERE WILL BE ARRESTS AND THERE WILL BE CHARGES IN NEW ORLEANS."

WILL THERE BE CONVICTIONS?

"IN MY JUDGMENT THERE WILL BE, WITHOUT A SHADOW OF A DOUBT, CONVICTIONS FROM MY CHARGES. AGAIN I WANT TO EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS A TIME PROBLEM AND THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE MORE DELAY THAN THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN BEFORE BECAUSE OF THE NEWSPAPERS' PREMATURE PUBLICITY."

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