

abc Feb 22 1967

Dist Atty Jim Garrison statement on death of David William Ferrie:

"Mr. Ferrie was found dead at approximately 11 a.m. this morning; that he had been dead for approximately eight hours; that this was this very large number of bottles of pills on a table -- about 15 bottles. Based on the information which we have on the case I believe that I can safely say that you will find that it is a suicide.

".... Mr. Ferrie was one of the individuals whom I had in mind when I said there would be arrests shortly."

Coroner Dr. Nicholas Cetta reads note left by Ferrie:
for me a
~~XXXX~~ "To leave this life is a sweet prospect. I find nothing in it that is desirable and on the other hand everything that is loathsome."

ABC, Frank Hemingway, statement read by Garrison's secretary:

"Evidence developed by our office had long since since confirmed that he was involved in events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy. Although my office has been investigating Mr. Ferrie intensively for months, we have not mentioned his name publicly up to this point."

Hemingway: The statement issued by Garrison's office also said that David Ferrie has been under constant surveillance for weeks, that authorities were afraid he might take his own life, and that just today the decision was made to arrest Ferrie, but it came too late.

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Liebeler (on same Hemingway program): "The Commission and the FBI were quite aware of the fact that Ferrie had flown this airplane over to Texas on the day of the assassination, and that was checked out as thoroughly as anything could be checked out. There's a stack of FBI reports on this investigation about a foot thick. And the staff of the commission -- it was primarily my responsibility in the first instance -- analyzed these reports, and there was not a shred

of evidence that there was any connection between Ferrie and this assassination."

ABC later: "If Garrison has got any evidence that would indicate that Ferrie did have any ~~things~~ connection with this, now that Ferrie is dead I think that Garrison ought to make a forthright statement to indicate exactly what Ferrie's relationship was to this whole investigation, if any, so that we don't have to go through this agonizing speculation everytime somebody dies in this country."

ABC: Garrison: "The apparent suicide of David Ferrie ended the life of a man who in my judgment was one of history's most important individuals. Evidence developed by our office had long since confirmed that he was involved in events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy."

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ABC: ^{.....} Sen Cooper said he believed the commission thoroughly investigated Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in New Orleans, but he would not want to discourage the current investigation undertaken by District Attorney Jim Garrison.

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ABC: ~~xxxxxx~~ Secretary reading Garrison's statement: "The apparent suicide of David Ferrie ends the life of a man who, in my judgment, was one of history's most important individuals. Evidence developed by our office had long since confirmed that he was involved in events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy. ~~It~~ In a meeting at my house this morning we had reached a decision to arrest him early next week. Apparently we waited too long. I have no further comment to make about Mr. Ferrie's death or about any other aspects of the case."