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Ferrie bjt NL

By Bernard Gavzer

New Orleans, Feb. 23 (AP)- David W. Ferrie's death created fear today among some people who claimed to have information relating to Ferrie or Lee Harvey Oswald in connection with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Ferrie, labeled by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison as a prime informant in his investigation of the assassination, was found dead in bed yesterday. A preliminary autopsy report attributed death to a brain hemorrhage. A coroner's report today ruled out murder, leaving suicide, natural causes or accidental death as possibilities.

A woman who was about to give the Associated Press details she said related to Oswald's activities in New Orleans was frightened into silence. She warily greeted a reporter at her home.

"You see that," she said, directing attention to a snub-nosed .38 calibre revolver placed on a nearby chair. "I don't say anything might happen to me. But I just won't talk to you. I have nothing more to say."

Another person on the periphery of the case, David Lewis, a bus station baggage clerk, dropped out of sight last night. Neighbors said the Lewis family had suddenly left town. Lewis had told newsmen he feared for the safety of his wife and four children because of his knowledge of a possible conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

However Lewis appeared at the district attorney's office today. Before going into Garrison's office he said:

"I'm not worried about myself, but I am about my family. Maybe there has been too much said about me already, but they know my name and know what I look like and they know where I work, so that's it."

A onetime private investigator, Lewis claims to have known Oswald, the man named by the Warren Commission as Kennedy's assassin.

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New Orleans -- Ferrie bjt nl A49nu to cover developments insert after 8th graf x x x assassin.

Another figure in the case, Miguel Torres, was removed at his <sup>own</sup> request from a jail cell to the hospital at Orleans Parish prison.

WDSU-TV said he had been informed by "a source" that a relative of Torres claimed to have received a telephone call threatening the man's life.

Criminal Sheriff Louis Heyd Jr. had no comment other than to say Torres wasn't sick.

Torres, a Cuban exile, was returned to New Orleans from the Louisiana State Prison at Angola in January and has been questioned by Garrison's investigators. Torres lived a block away from Oswald's 1963 resident here.

Coroner Nicholas x x x9th graf A49nu

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Coroner Nicholas Chetta ruled out murder as a possible cause of Ferrie's death.

"There is no evidence of any violence," he said. "There is no evidence of murder."

The Orleans Parish coroner said the specific cause of death was an aneurysm -- a small ~~secular~~ aneurysm of a cerebral artery. He said such aneurysms frequently rupture, spilling blood into the brain. He likened this to the failure of an inner tube with a weak spot.

A large quantity of pills for vascular disease was found in Ferrie's apartment. But the coroner said even an overdose of these could not cause an aneurysm.

Dr. Chetta first fixed the time of death as Tuesday evening. After talking today with George Lardner, Jr., Washington Post reporter who said he left Ferrie at 4 a.m. yesterday, the coroner said he could not "rule out the possibility Ferrie might have died as late as 4 a.m."

The coroner said the death would remain unclassified until a toxicological report was completed in about a week.

Garrison termed the death an apparent suicide. Dr. Chetta said there was nothing to indicate a suicide except an unsigned, undated typewritten note saying death was a "sweet prospect." Tests showed that the note, found on the dining room table, was typed on a typewriter in Ferrie's cluttered apartment.

Garrison, who created international headlines by launching his own investigation into the assassination, described Ferrie's death as a temporary setback to his investigation. He said he felt Ferrie was on the brink of producing significant information. Nevertheless, he said, he remained optimistic that his investigation would proceed and produce results.

The woman who was frightened into silence had earlier told an AP reporter that she was working for a New Orleans firm in the summer of 1963 when a person using a name sounding like "Hidell" purchased

some automobile tires. Hydell is a name Oswald used when he purchased a mail order Mannlicher-Carcano rifle identified by the Warren Commission as the weapon used to slay President Kennedy.

"This man was a dead-beat on his payments," the woman said. "It took a lot of checking to track him down and on three occasions that I did call his home the telephone was answered by a woman who had an accent. I thought it was French or Spanish."

Oswald's Russian-born wife, Marina, spoke with a strong accent. The ~~telephone~~ woman said she was able to fix the approximate location of the telephone as being in the Magazine St. area. Oswald and his wife resided on Magazine St. during the summer of 1963.

"I am not claiming that he positively was Oswald," the woman said. "But I feel almost certain it was. I saw pictures in the newspaper of a New Orleans man named Haydell and I knew that this was not the man who bought the tires."

Information developed by the Warren Commission indicated there was strong evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald did not know how to drive an automobile.

The woman said she did not know whether the customer had driven a vehicle. She said the tires were for a panel truck.

One aspect of Oswald's activities reportedly being investigated by Garrison concerns a report that Oswald tried to make contact with anti-Castro Cubans in the New Orleans area to train guerrilla forces.

The woman said that after President Kennedy was assassinated, she voiced her suspicions to the FBI.

"I never heard from the FBI after that. I don't know if they were able to find the purchase order to check it with Oswald's handwriting or not. I haven't been with the company for a while now."

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