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investigation first lead

New Orleans, Feb. 24 (AP)- Dist Atty Jim Garrison used a new word -- "solved" -- in referring to his President Kennedy assassination investigation today.

Asked later about the use of the word "solved," Garrison said:

"I thought I had made that explicit before. We know the names of the groups involved. We are going to be able to arrest every human involved -- that is, every human involved who is still alive."

The word "solved" was coupled with a report that arrests were imminent. Garrison called this "ridiculous."

"What I've been trying to emphasize is that arrests are not imminent. For them to say the arrests will take place any day is ridiculous. They asked me if it might be in the next few days. I said it might be months -- that it might 30 years."

Earlier today, coroner Nicholas Chetta announced that a chemical analysis showed David W. Ferrie, a key figure in Garrison's probe, died of natural causes.

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New Orleans, Feb. 24 (AP)- Coroner Nicholas Chetta said today a chemical analysis on the body of David W. Ferrie showed he died of natural causes.

"There is no indication whatsoever of suicide or murder," the Orleans Parish coroner said. A ruptured artery in the brain was the cause of death, he said.

Ferrie, a pilot, was found dead in bed Wednesday. He was a central figure in Dist. Atty Jim Garrison's current investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. Garrison had termed Ferrie's death apparent suicide.

A chemical analysis of Ferrie's blood, urine and skin was negative for the presence of alcohol, drugs and poison, Chetta said.

Chetta disclosed he had been contacted by a physician who had treated Ferrie.

"This doctor told me he had treated Mr. Ferrie for high blood pressure and recently for a gastro-intestinal disturbance," Chetta said. "The doctor said he found Ferrie unduly disturbed and depressed and said Ferrie spoke about suicide.

"The doctor also said Ferrie was determined to sue Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison for a large sum of money. I believe the figure was something like \$500,000."

Ferrie had consistently denied ever knowing Lee Harvey Oswald -- named by the Warren Commission as Kennedy's assassin.

In an interview last Saturday Ferrie termed Garrison's investigation "a big joke" and said he supposedly had been pegged as "the get-away pilot" in an elaborate plot to kill Kennedy.

Garrison, without revealing details, described Ferrie after his death as a central figure in his investigation. He said he had planned to arrest Ferrie next week.

Dr. Chetta said a final, comprehensive autopsy report will be made public next Tuesday.

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