

Garrison Describes Oswald as a 'Patsy'

By **JAMES BUCHANAN**

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NEW ORLEANS — Trying to track District Attorney Jim Garrison's new Kennedy assassination probe with the Warren report as a roadmap is like taking a trip to nowhere.

It becomes more and more apparent the flamboyant, TV-style D.A. is working on a new track that agrees with the government findings only to the extent that the former President is dead.

Garrison's efforts to prove a successful conspiracy to

assassinate John F. Kennedy was hatched in New Orleans began last October, but got its public exposure only recently.

CONTRADICTIONS

Since that time, everything Garrison has revealed as his beliefs is in direct contradiction with the Warren Commission conclusions.

He has criticized the report as superficial and incomplete, saying "We have already gone far beyond the point at which it ended."

He doesn't believe Lee

Harvey Oswald killed Kennedy. He doesn't believe the actual killer worked alone.

"We know beyond the shadow of a doubt," Garrison says, "who killed the President."

'A PATSY'

As for Oswald:

"He was a decoy first, then a patsy and finally a victim," Garrison says.

The evidence to support his contentions, if there is any, is Garrison's secret.

The Warren report contends Oswald had no friends

in New Orleans and spent most of his five months here from April until September sitting at home reading and drawing unemployment compensation.

Garrison is convinced Oswald was a regular customer of the Cuban coffee shops and cafes here, where he met openly with the conspirators.

RED-HERRING ROLE

These persons, he feels, drew Oswald into the plotting and at first assigned him a menial red-herring role.

The Warren report blames

Oswald's psychological desire to make a name for himself as his motivation to kill Kennedy.

Garrison, from his statements, doesn't believe Oswald was spurred by any other reason than the fact that, for the first time, he had been accepted into a group.

He has indicated he feels Oswald's promotion to the "patsy" role came as other plotters dropped out of the picture.

In the parlance of the underworld, he was unknowingly set up to take the rap for the assassination, according to Garrison.

'A VICTIM'

The Warren report found Jack Ruby acted alone in killing Oswald and was not a participant in a plot.

But Garrison feels differently.

Oswald, he says, was "finally a victim."

This could only mean, in Garrison's figuring, that Ruby's murder of Oswald Nov. 24, 1963, was part of a conspiracy that reached the point where Oswald had to be silenced.