

(CW)-NU

NY ONLY; NOT FOR PUBLICATION

GARRISON-KENNEDY 470

BY JOHN S. LANG

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS, FEB. ²⁸~~29~~ (AP)--A MAN WANTED BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR QUESTIONING TODAY IN THE PRESIDENT KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PROBE STAYED AWAY FROM HIS HOME DURING THE NIGHT, APPARENTLY MISSING OFFICERS WHO TRIED TO SERVE HIM WITH A SUBPOENA.

"HE PROBABLY WENT TO STAY WITH FRIENDS," SAID HIS MOTHER.

A "JAMES LEWALLEN" WAS NAMED YESTERDAY IN A SUBPOENA ISSUED BY DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON IN HIS FIRST OVERT LEGAL MANEUVER SINCE STARTING THE CONTROVERSIAL INVESTIGATION LAST OCTOBER.

GARRISON'S OFFICE DECLINED TO REVEAL INFORMATION ABOUT LEWALLEN IN ITS BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT. BUT DISTRICT JUDGE BERNARD BAGGERT, WHO SIGNED THE SUBPOENA, SAID LEWALLEN HAD REFUSED TO TAKE A LIE DETECTOR TEST AND THAT THE SUBPOENA WAS ISSUED TO REQUIRE HIM TO REPORT TO GARRISON'S OFFICE TODAY TO MAKE A STATEMENT.

THE CITY DIRECTORY IDENTIFIED THE ONLY JAMES LEWALLEN LISTED AS AN INSPECTOR AT THE BOEING COMPANY AND GAVE HIS RESIDENCE AS 4406D PARIS AVE.

AT THAT ADDRESS, A WOMAN WHO IDENTIFIED HERSELF AS LEWALLEN'S MOTHER REFUSED TO GIVE HER SON'S WHEREABOUTS OR TO SAY WHETHER HE WOULD APPEAR BEFORE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

BEFORE ANSWERING THE BELL, TWO NEWSMEN CLEARLY HEARD HER VOICE THROUGH THE THIN DOOR IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION. SHE WAS SAYING:

"THE POLICE CAME HERE LOOKING FOR YOU. I WOULDN'T LET THEM IN UNTIL THEY SHOWED THEIR BADGES. THEY LOOKED ALL AROUND. THEY SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO GIVE THE SUBPOENA TO YOU.

"NEWS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN BESEIGING THE HOUSE. THEY ASKED ME IF I KNEW DAVE FERRIE, AND I SAID, 'THAT'S NOT A CRIME IS IT? EVERYBODY'S GOT FRIENDS.' I TOLD THEM THAT I KNEW DAVID FERRIE'S PARENTS IN CLEVELAND, THAT HIS FATHER HAD PASSED AWAY BUT I TALKED TO HIS MOTHER AND SHE IS A VERY NICE PERSON...WELL, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT THIS."

DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE, 48, FOUND DEAD IN BED LAST WEDNESDAY, WAS A MAN WHO GARRISON MAINTAINS COMMITTED SUICIDE WHILE UNDER INVESTIGATION IN THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PROBE.

DR. NICHOLAS CHETTA, THE ORLEANS PARISH CORONER, GAVE AN OFFICIAL RULING YESTERDAY THAT FERRIE DIED OF "NATURAL CAUSES," KILLED BY HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE WHICH BLEW OUT A WEAK VEIN AT THE BASE OF HIS BRAIN.

CETTA ADDED, "THERE IS NO INDICATION OF VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND, CERTAINLY NOT MURDER OR SUICIDE."

AFTER ^{COMING?} ~~COMAD~~ TO THE DOOR, LEWALLEN'S MOTHER AGAIN STATED THAT SHE HAD KNOWN FERRIE, WHO SHE SAID WAS "A NICE MAN WHO HAD LOTS OF FRIENDS."

A WOMAN WHO APPEARS TO BE IN HER 50S, WITH GREYING BLONDISH HAIR, SHE REFUSED TO ANSWER MOST QUESTIONS ABOUT HER SON. ASKED IF HER SON EVER KNEW LEE HARVEY OSWALD, SHE REPLIED:

"I FEEL SURE HE DIDN'T KNOW HIM BECAUSE ON THE DAY IT HAPPENED -- THE DAY KENNEDY WAS SHOT -- JIM WAS READING THE NEWSPAPER AND THEN HE PUT IT DOWN AND SAID, 'WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT.' AND HE NEVER MENTIONED ANY OF THOSE NAMES IN THE STORY."

FERRIE, SHORTLY BEFORE HE DIED, DENIED EVER KNOWING OSWALD, THE FORMER NEW ORLEANS RESIDENT NAMED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION AS THE SNIPER WHO KILLED KENNEDY IN DALLAS ON NOV. 22, 1963.

AN INFORMANT LINKED FERRIE TO OSWALD IN 1963. THIS RESULTED IN FERRIE BEING INTENSIVELY QUESTIONED ABOUT THE ACCUSATIONS, WHICH INCLUDED A CLAIM THAT HE WAS TO BE THE "GETAWAY PILOT" FOR THE ASSASSIN. THE FBI AND THE SECRET SERVICE CLEARED FERRIE.

GARRISON, WHO BEGAN QUESTIONING FERRIE AGAIN LAST NOVEMBER, SAID FERRIE'S DEATH CAME JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE HE WAS TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

JH1ACS NME