

Witnesses in Kennedy Probe Disappear, Garrison Aide Says

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NEW ORLEANS — Prospective witnesses in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation into President John F. Kennedy's assassination have disappeared from New Orleans, Garrison's chief aide said Monday.

The disappearances have occurred since the arrest Wednesday of civic leader Clay L. Shaw, who is accused with Lee Harvey Oswald and others, of plotting the assassination, William Gurvich said.

The fifth person subpoenaed in Garrison's investigation was questioned for more than an hour Monday. He is J. B. Dauenhauer, like Shaw a prominent figure in international trade circles here. Upon his release by district attorney's investigators, Dauenhauer refused comment.

But his attorney said, "Mr.

Dauenhauer has cooperated with the district attorney's staff to the utmost. But unfortunately he was not able to shed much light. It is my opinion that he had nothing to do with any conspiracy—if one existed."

Gurvich said Dauenhauer was called primarily because of close past associations with Clay, who retired 18 months ago as director of New Orleans' prestigious International Trade Mart.

Dauenhauer, a distinguished-looking man in his 50s, was Shaw's top assistant at the trade mart before Shaw retired. He has remained as a leading official with the mart.

Shaw is scheduled to appear at a preliminary hearing a week from today at which, Gurvich said, possibly as many as three confidential

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informants will testify
against him.

This marked the first time the district attorney's office had disclosed that it had more than one confidential informant able to testify he knew of a plot to assassinate the President.

At least one of these informants has sworn that he was present at meetings attended by Shaw, Oswald, David William Ferrie, a homosexual who died here Feb. 22, and "others." Garrison has alleged the murder of the President was plotted at these meetings in Ferrie's apartment in September, 1963.

Other Witnesses

Gurvich said the district attorney can produce witnesses other than confidential informers, but declined to specify the number.

"Some of the witnesses are receiving police protection — and some are not," he said.

Gurvich's statements Monday constituted the first time in more than a week that a member of the district attorney's office has divulged information about the cloak-and-dagger investigation. The district attorney dropped out of sight last week and has not been seen since.

The investigation has aroused worldwide interest, has been greeted with skepticism in Washington, and has added to the swelling controversy over the Warren Commission Report, which said Oswald acted alone in the assassination.

'Roman Circus'

The American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana Monday called the investigation a "Roman circus" and said Garrison had committed "serious breaches of professional ethics" that could jeopardize any convictions that may result from his probe.

The ACLU, in a statement, said it had criticized Garrison last August for attempting to retry two men "in the press rather than in the courtroom."

Gurvich's disclosure



AFTER QUESTIONING—J. B. Dauenhauer, left, a onetime assistant to Clay L. Shaw in New Orleans, squeezes past Andrew Sciambra, center, and James L. Alcock of the New Orleans district attorney's office. Dauenhauer was questioned for more than an hour in connection with the Kennedy death probe.

(A) Wirephoto

about disappearing witnesses came during an impromptu question-and-answer session that began when he was asked if anyone whom Garrison had hoped to question had left New Orleans recently.

"Yes," he replied during the brief session in the Criminal Courts Building, where Garrison's office is situated.

"Since the arrest of Clay Shaw?" he was asked.

"Yes."

Asked about the identity of the disappearing witnesses, he replied: "I can't tell you that."

Gurvich also was asked why Garrison's office had sought a preliminary hearing, at which it must present some of its confidential evidence against Shaw.

"We want to show the world we've got something," Gurvich said.

Three Judges Wanted

Partially for this same reason he disclosed that Garrison's office has asked that three judges preside at the hearing, rather than one. The judges would determine if there is probable cause to try Shaw for "participating in a conspiracy to murder John F. Kennedy." Shaw is free on \$10,000 bond.

"There is a distinct possibility other arrests will be made this week," Gurvich said. "We anticipate charging other people with conspiracy, but do not necessarily anticipate trying

them together."

Another "two or three persons," he declared, will be charged with being "accessories after the fact."

Gurvich said that, while Shaw is the most prominent person, in social and civic circles, involved in the investigation, he is not the "heavy" in the alleged plot.

Gurvich also disclosed for the first time Monday that Garrison knows the exact dates and times of the alleged plotters' meetings. "Everybody was a planner, a conspirator who sat in on the meetings," he said.