

Code Claimed Cracked In JFK Death Probe

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NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Attorneys for Clay L. Shaw, accused of conspiracy in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, said Friday that Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison was playing "the old shell game" in sifting clues.

The attorneys, F. Irvin Dymond and Edward Wegmann, also complained that Garrison had not filed a copy of his pleadings with them, and "all that we know is what we read in the newspapers."

Garrison claims Shaw, the late David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald, who was shot to death by Jack Ruby two days after Kennedy was killed, conspired to assassinate the president.

Tells of Code

The district attorney said his office had deciphered a code which he said was used by Oswald and Shaw in writing memos. He said a coded telephone number—Ruby's unpublished telephone number in Dallas, Tex.—was in possession of both Oswald and Shaw.

The Warren Commission, which concluded that Oswald acted alone in the assassination, said it found no connection between Oswald and Ruby. Garrison said the code yielded a strong clue that both Shaw and Oswald had set up

some communication with Ruby.

The Warren Commission published Oswald's notebook, including a notation "PO 19106." And, said Garrison, a notation in a booklet seized in Shaw's home read "Lee Odom, PO Box 19106, Dallas, Tex."

Seen as Coincidence

Shaw's attorneys said there was nothing significant about that—Lee Odom was a business associate Shaw met in 1965, and the "PO Box 19106" referred to Odom's business address in Dallas. The defense attorneys viewed the similarity in numbers as a coincidence, and not a clue.

But Garrison said that number was not an address, that there was no such post office box in Dallas, and that it actually was Ruby's telephone number disguised.

NYTimes, 13 May 1967

Code in An Address Book Held Ruby-Oswald Link

NEW ORLEANS, May 12 (AP)—District Attorney Jim Garrison said today that the late Jack Ruby's unlisted telephone number appears in code in address books belonging to Lee Harvey Oswald and Clay L. Shaw.

Mr. Garrison told Criminal District Court his investigators broke a telephone number code used by both Oswald and Mr. Shaw, a retired New Orleans executive accused of conspiring to murder President Kennedy.

The District Attorney's statement runs counter to the Warren Commission report, which found no indication of any link between Oswald and Ruby. Oswald was identified in the report as President Kennedy's assassin. Ruby shot and killed Oswald at the Dallas police station on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after the assassination.