

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
2700 TULANE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS 70119



JIM GAMBRO
District Attorney

June 19, 1967

P R E S S R E L E A S E

The shouting and yelling now being heard is evidence that we have caught a very large fish.

It is obvious that there are elements today in Washington, D.C., who are desperate because we are in the process of uncovering their hoax. It is equally obvious that the Mutual Broadcasting Company has lent itself to the counter-attack in an effort to stop our inquiry before the truth is brought out to the public. It is obvious furthermore that the same basic tactic is being used here that was used to conceal the true facts of the assassination in the first place.

Their main weapon is the big lie -- and it will be presented with a great deal of pomposity in order to try and make it more digestible. The basic tactic being used is to try to discredit the prosecution in advance of the trial and to end any further inquiry into the real facts of what happened at Dallas.

Page Two

In their effort to torpedo the State's case, the agents of the National Broadcasting Company have actively interjected themselves into this legal proceeding. Their actions have ranged from the harrassment of prosecution witnesses to the offering of inducements. One major witness for the State has been contacted at his house on nine different occasions by agents of the National Broadcasting Company.

The frantic nature of this effort to derail the prosecution's case simply confirms the fact that my office has uncovered the true facts about Dallas and that there are men in Washington, D.C. who know it. The National Broadcasting Company's project has been directed by a former investigator for the Federal Government, Mr. Walter Sheridan. In the end it will fail, as all efforts to conceal the truth by the use of power and intimidation must fail.

Already, the initial phase of the National Broadcasting Company's counterattack in behalf of the Federal Government has been revealed as a fraud. The story that my investigators attempted to commit bribery has been revealed as totally untrue by an investigation by the New Orleans Police Department and the famous tape which was supposed to support this fiction was found to have been altered

subsequent to its being recorded. Of course, although the inference of bribery by my office has been spread across the nation, the disclosure that this story was false was followed by silence. This distinguished news agency simply intensified its search for individuals who would provide any kind of derogatory statement which could be used to reflect on the prosecution and the nature of its case.

Although the guise of news coverage has been used as the basis for the initial contact, the National Broadcasting Company's agents have made no secret of the fact that the objective is to bring an end to the investigation into the facts of the assassination. For example, Mr. Walter Sheridan has suggested to Perry Russo, an important witness for the State of Louisiana, that if he wanted to leave the State of Louisiana and move to California prior to trial, the National Broadcasting Company would pay all of his expenses. Mr. Sheridan said, furthermore, that the National Broadcasting Company would guarantee to protect him from an attempt by our office to extradite him from California back to Louisiana. In this connection, Mr. Sheridan called Russo's attention to Gordon Novel's success in defeating our attempts to extradite him from Ohio. He added that there

was no way that we would ever be successful in extraditing Novel from Ohio and that the National Broadcasting Company could give the same kind of guarantee to Russo if he moved to California prior to trial.

This is merely one example of the degree to which this national television network has interjected itself into a pending law case in a calculated effort to affect the outcome. It was because these activities had reached a point of interfering with our case that I complained to the Federal Communications Commission. My complaint to the Federal Communications Commission was sent on short notice several days ago when I learned that the National Broadcasting Company was going to make its major effort to interrupt the investigation and damage the State's case tonight. In order to call the maximum amount of attention to what the National Broadcasting Company was trying to do I instructed my office to release a copy of the letter to the public as soon as it was mailed. If the Federal Communications Commission has not yet received the letter I am sure that it can find the substance of my complaint in the newspapers. The point is not when I mailed my letter to the Federal Communications Commission. The point is that a national television network is using the public air waves

to interfere with the processes of justice.

Here is a news agency which has remained silent while the greatest hoax in history was perpetrated. Here is a news agency which has remained silent through the years during which the autopsy, x-rays and photographs have remained hidden from the public. Here is a news agency which has remained silent in the face of countless indications speaking eloquently of concealment of the true facts of the assassination of President Kennedy.

And now this news agency which has so noticeably failed its duty to inquire into the true facts of the President's assassination has moved up to a new plateau of culpability. The National Broadcasting Company is now actively engaged in trying to obstruct the only effective inquiry seeking to determine the true facts of the assassination. The officials and employees of the National Broadcasting Company who are participating in this scheme to obstruct justice are nothing less than accessories after the fact with regard to the assassination. When the true facts of the assassination are brought to light I hope that the people of this country remember the role of this news agency in attempting to prevent them from learning the truth.

JIM GARRISON