

A098

Garrison-NBC NL 480 2 takes total 910

NEW YORK AP -The National Broadcasting Co. said in a televised program Monday that potential witnesses were threatened and induced by New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's office to strengthen a case against Clay L. Shaw.

Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman, is under indictment there on charges of conspiracy to murder in the 1963 assassination in Dallas of President John F. Kennedy.

Garrison contends the Kennedy assassination was the result of this purported conspiracy, and disputes the Warren Commission finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone as the killer.

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A095

URGENT

Garrison-NBC Sub

New York Garrison-NBC NL A088 to rephrase sub 2nd and third grafs; Shaw.

Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman, is under indictment there on charges of conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in Dallas in 1963.

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"The results 4th graf.

re950ped june 19

A096

EDITORS:

In NEW YORK GARRISON-NBC NL A088 please note that the sub A095 makes important rephrasing 2nd and 3rd grafs.

THE AP

re951ped june 19

"The results of his four months of public investigation have been to damage reputations, to spread fear and suspicion and, worst of all, to exploit the nation's sorrow and doubts about President Kennedy's death," NBC said of Garrison.

Garrison sought in vain to block the network telecast, entitled "The JFK Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison." But NBC went ahead with it.

In New Orleans, Garrison said: "All of the screaming and hollering now being heard is evidence that we have caught a very large fish. It is obvious that there are elements in Washington, D.C., which are desperate because we are in the process of uncovering their hoax.

"It is equally obvious that the National Broadcasting Co. has lent itself to the counterattack in an effort to stop our inquiry before the truth is brought out to the public."

Summing up after the hour-long program, NBC commentator Frank McGee declared: "We cannot say that the murder of John F. Kennedy did not happen the way Jim Garrison says it did. We cannot say he does not have the evidence to prove it. We can say this: the case he has built against Clay Shaw is based on testimony that did not pass a lie detector test Garrison ordered—and Garrison knew it. One prospective witness admitted he was going to lie."

"Members of Garrison's staff, in trying to strengthen the case against Shaw, have threatened and offered inducements to potential witnesses."

The apparent heart of Garrison's case, as NBC outlined it, is a purported party in the fall of 1963 in the New Orleans apartment of the late David Ferrie, in which he was heard discussing with his roommate and a man named Clem or Clay Bertrand a plan to assassinate Kennedy.

The roommate is said to have been Oswald, and Bertrand was purported to be Shaw.

One of Garrison's witnesses was Vernon Bundy, 29, a narcotics addict. NBC said he was in a prison hospital when he told another inmate he was testifying for Garrison "because this is the only way I can get out lease."

McGee said NBC also learned that Bundy underwent a liedetector test in advance of his testimony that indicated his story was not true, but that Garrison made use of it anyway to get Shaw held for trial.

NBC said another key witness for Garrison was Perry Raymond Russo, 26, an insurance salesman, who linked Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald.

NBC quoted an interviewer as saying that Russo, under hypnosis, volunteered no information about Shaw and the purported assassination plot, until he was subjected to "a series of leading questions."

Garrison was quoted as saying hypnosis was used "just to make sure he was telling the truth."

At another point, McGee said: "Garrison has based his case on a certainty he can prove Clay Shaw is Clay or Clem Bertrand."

MORE MORE MORE
RD914ped June 19

A089

Garrison-NBC take 2 430

McGee continued: "Clay or Clem Bertrand does exist. An NBC news reporter has seen him. Clem Bertrand is not his real name. It is a pseudonym used by a homosexual in New Orleans. For his own protection we will not disclose the real name of the man known as Clem Bertrand. His real name has been given to the Department of Justice. He is not Clay Shaw."

The program also said witnesses have told investigators that Oswald could not have been rooming with Ferrie at the time the party was supposed to have been held—that he was living elsewhere at the time.

At another point, McGee said: "Many have told us that they have been subjected to pressure to give testimony that would build the case against Clay Shaw."

In his statement in New Orleans, Garrison said: "The basic tactic being used to try to discredit the prosecution in advance of the trial and to end any further inquiry into the real facts of what happened in Dallas."

A102

GARRISON CORRECTION

NEW YORK-Garrison-NBC, take 2, A088, sub 4th graf to insert dropped "is"; Shaw"

In his statement in New Orleans, Garrison said: "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 in Dallas."

In turn 5th graf
re1032ped June 19

In turn, Garrison accused NBC of tactics ranging "from the harassment of prosecution witnesses to the offering of inducements."

"The frantic nature of this effort to derail the prosecution's case," Garrison went on, "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 Co.'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 inevitably must fail."

"The story that my investigators attempted to commit bribery," he stated, "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."

Garrison claimed Sheridan told Russe that NBC would pay all his expenses if he wanted to move to California before Shaw's trial, and would guarantee to protect him from being forced to return to Louisiana.

In attempting to block the telecast, Garrison said, he protested to the Federal Communications Commission about NBC's

"Major effort to interrupt the investigation and damage the state's case tonight."

"Here is a news agency which has remained silent while the greatest hoax in history was perpetrated," Garrison's statement continued. "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."

"The National Broadcasting Co.," Garrison declared,

"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 Co. who are participating in this scheme to obstruct justice are nothing less than accessories after the fact with regard to the assassination."

RD922ped June 19