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'Lie' Charges Fly In TV 'Plot' Probe

NEW YORK (UPI) — New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation into the Kennedy assassination was described on nationwide television last night as a case founded upon lies, threats, fear, suspicion, inducements and exploitation of the public.

Shortly before the NBC News documentary went on the air, Garrison issued a statement characterizing the program as "the big lie."

The New Orleans prosecutor added: "All the screaming and hollering now being heard is evidence that we have caught a very large fish."

Garrison has charged that Clay L. Shaw, a New Orleans businessman, took part in a conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. He said Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby, the late David W.

Ferrie and unnamed Cubans participated in the alleged plot. Shaw has been indicted for conspiracy.

The NBC program, "The JFK Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison," presented the following conclusions:

1—"The case he (Garrison) 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.

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

3—"The results of his four months of public investigation have been to damage reputations, to spread fear and suspicion and, worst of all, to ex-

plot the nation's sorrow and doubts about President Kennedy's death."

In his statement, Garrison said the NBC report had been "presented with a great deal of pomposity in order to try and make it more digestible."

"It is obvious that there are elements today in Washington, D.C., which are desperate because we are in the process of uncovering their hoax," he added.

After the program, Garrison said he would ask NBC for equal time to reply to the network's statements.

Perry Russo, one of Garrison's key witnesses in the case against Shaw, has identified Shaw as the mysterious "Clay Bertrand" who is alleged to have taken part in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

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