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NEW ORLEANS AP - William H. Gurvich quit Monday as chief investigator for Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and said Garrison's case against Clay L. Shaw should be dropped.

Garrison has charged Shaw, wealthy retired New Orleans businessman, with conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy.

Gurvich went to the district attorney's office and tried to see Garrison. He was physically barred by Louis A. Iven, an investigator.

A newsman asked Gurvich if he felt the charges against Shaw should be dropped.

"At this time, yes I do."

Gurvich told the New York Times Sunday he has "grave misgivings" about Garrison's inquiry into Kennedy's assassination. He said he would visit Garrison on his return from New York and urge the district attorney to review the probe in a new light.

When Gurvich entered the district attorney's outer office today, Iven blocked his way at a guard railing to the inner offices.

"Have I been fired?" Gurvich demanded.

"I don't know anything about that," replied Iven, refusing to step aside.

"May I come in?" said Gurvich.

"No you can't," Iven replied.

"You're not my boss," Gurvich said. "...You mean I can't go into my office?"

"The boss wanted you to wait outside," Iven replied.

At this point James Alcock, an assistant district attorney, escorted Gurvich into a rear office. Fifteen minutes later, Gurvich reappeared and said he had waited a half hour to see Garrison.

"I don't wait for anyone longer than a half hour," he said as he left.

Shortly thereafter, he telephoned the district attorney's office and announced his resignation.

F. Irvin Dymond, a defense attorney for Shaw, said he was surprised by Gurvich's statement that the Shaw case should be dropped. "Of course I'm very pleased to hear it."

GURVICH, WHO ALSO HEADS A PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY, SERVED AS Garrison's chief investigator during the early months of the investigation. It was he who announced Shaw's arrest on March 1. Garrison says Gurvich has not been involved in the probe for several weeks.

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