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GARRISON PROBE NL 380

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NEW ORLEANS AP - Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's chief investigator quit Garrison's controversial Kennedy assassination probe Monday after being barred from his boss's office.

William H. Gurvich told newsmen he thinks Garrison should drop a murder conspiracy charge against Clay L. Shaw, the only person arrested to date in the nine-month-old investigation into President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Garrison said in a statement that Gurvich had never been his chief investigator and "has had no connection whatsoever with the staff for at least six weeks. I do not see how he can 'resign' when he has ceased to be a part of the investigation for so long."

He accused Gurvich with meeting with representatives of the National Broadcasting Co. while still working on the case. NBC last week produced a documentary on the probe that was critical of Garrison's tactics.

On his arrival at the district attorney's office, Gurvich told newsmen he intended to urge Garrison to re-evaluate the investigation. Over the weekend, Gurvich had said in New York he had grave misgivings about the inquiry.

On seeking to pass the guard rail leading directly to Garrison's office, Gurvich was blocked by Louis W. Ivon, an investigator in the district attorney's office.

"Have I been fired?" asked Gurvich.

"I don't know anything about that," Ivon replied.

"May I come in?" demanded Gurvich.

"No, you can't," Ivon responded. ". . . The boss wanted you to wait outside."

At that point, James Alcock, an assistant district attorney, appeared and conducted Gurvich to a back office. Fifteen minutes later, Gurvich re-appeared and announced he was through waiting to see Garrison.

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

Later Garrison released a lengthy statement in which he said Gurvich's actions represent "the latest move from the eastern headquarters of the establishment to attempt to discredit our investigation . . ."

"It becomes increasingly apparent that elements of the federal government are absolutely desperate in their attempt to prevent the people of this country from finding out what really happened in Dallas," Garrison said.

Gurvich has figured prominently in Garrison's investigation from the start. It was he who announced on March 1 the arrest of Shaw on a charge of conspiring to murder President Kennedy. Shaw, retired New Orleans businessman, now is free under \$10,000 bond awaiting trial.

Garrison has said repeatedly that Kennedy died as a result of a New Orleans-based conspiracy and that he has the proof. The Warren Commission reported it found no evidence of a conspiracy.

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