

Attorney Claims Shaw 'Never Was' Bertrand

12-A

NATIONAL

St. Petersburg Times, Thursday, June 29, 1967

Garrison Aide Gurvich Tells Why He Quit

By JACK NELSON

Special To The Times
From The Los Angeles Times

NEW ORLEANS — What prompted investigator William Gurvich to resign as an aide to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and blast Garrison's controversial investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy?

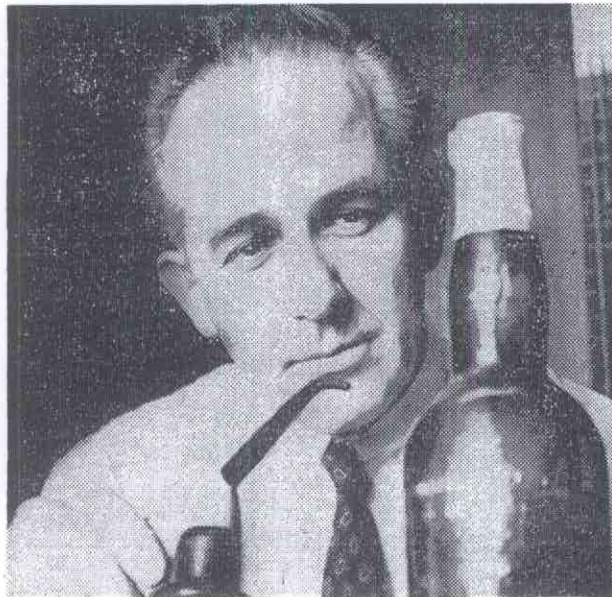
Gurvich, operator of a private detective agency, said yesterday he decided to challenge the probe about June 1 after it became "so absurd I figured Garrison had gone completely nuts."

ACTUALLY, Gurvich, who early in the investigation boasted to reporters that Garrison had evidence to substantiate his charges, began talking confidentially with some newsmen about the shaky nature of the case more than a month ago. And it was an NBC-TV special correspondent, Walter Sheridan, who helped persuade him he should publicly tell what he thought about the investigation.

Sheridan, who served as an investigator in the U.S. Department of Justice when Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N.Y., was attorney general, first arranged for Gurvich to meet with Kennedy in New York on June 8 to relate his views.

Gurvich, who on March 1 announced that New Orleans civic leader Clay L. Shaw had been charged with conspiring to murder President Kennedy, Monday resigned from Garrison's staff and urged the district attorney to drop the charge against Shaw.

GURVICH NOW says he was never in favor of arresting Shaw, but when he announced the arrest he firmly declared that other arrests would be forthcoming. Then he assured newsmen Garrison could back up the charges.



AP Wirephoto

William Gurvich: 'It Was So Absurd . . .'

Gurvich and Garrison are longtime friends, and the Gurvich Detective Agency has done investigative work for the district attorney's office. When

Gurvich resigned Monday, he said he did not want to "grandstand," but merely wanted to relate his views to Garrison.

BUT AFTER Garrison commented on his resignation by ridiculing his role as an aide — describing him as little more than a chauffeur and a photographer — Gurvich heatedly denounced the district attorney as irrational and said his investigation had violated the civil rights of several persons, including Shaw.

Gurvich said he decided to denounce the investigation after Garrison plucked the name of his latest suspect from a letter written by a Texas woman whose husband had abandoned her and her children. She wanted help in locating him and described him as a man with a scar over his left eye.

"Garrison has always thought that a man with a scar over his left eye was a companion of Lee Harvey Oswald," said Gurvich, "so now this man became his suspect. It was so absurd I figured Garrison had gone completely nuts."

★ Oswald Link With FBI, CIA Called Possible

NEW YORK (AP) — The Columbia Broadcasting System said last night it "is not frivolous" to suspect that Lee Harvey Oswald had some connection with either the FBI or the Central Intelligence Agency.

In its last of a four-part television series on the Warren Report and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the network concluded that the accused assassin's mother "may not be quite so wrong about some kind of link between Oswald and various intelligence agencies of the United States."

John J. McCloy, a diplomat and member of the commission, agreed with CBS that the Warren Commission should have demanded to see the pictures and X-rays made during the Kennedy autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital the night of the assassination.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Attorney Dean Andrews Jr. said yesterday the Clay Bertrand who sought legal counsel for accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was French Quarter bar operator Eugene O. Davis.

Andrews' statement came on the heels of Davis' appearance before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

ANDREWS SAID in an interview that Clay L. Shaw, accused by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of conspiring to murder President John F. Kennedy, "never was, and never will be" Clay Bertrand.

The roly-poly, jive-talking Andrews, under indictment for perjury in the Garrison investigation, said he would voluntarily go before the Grand Jury and testify that Davis was Clay Bertrand.

But a Grand Jury subpoena was issued late in the day for Andrews.

These developments came as a parade of Garrison critics went before the Grand Jury, which kept private detective William Gurvich cooling his heels in the hall.

GURVICH RESIGNED Monday as Garrison's chief investigator, saying the district attorney had no case and Shaw, 54, a prominent retired New Orleans businessman, should never have been arrested.

Gurvich was subpoenaed to appear before the Grand Jury at 10 a.m.

The Grand Jury heard testimony from two representatives of the Metropolitan Crime Commission and Ed Planer, news director of WDSU-TV here.

Andrews told the Warren Commission a voice he knew as Clay Bertrand telephoned him the day after the presidential assassination and asked him to go to Dallas, Tex., and represent Oswald.

"THE MAN I believe to be the person everybody refers to as Clay Bertrand is a friend and client of mine, Eugene Davis," said Andrews.

Asked if he were sure Davis and not Shaw was Bertrand, Andrews replied: "It's not my problem. It's the problem of the Jolly Green Giant. He's the one that needs to know, not me."

The 6-foot-6 Garrison is frequently called the Jolly Green Giant by his detractors.

Sam (Monk) Zelden, the New Orleans attorney representing Andrews, said he would file a new motion to throw out the perjury indictment against his client.

Zelden said the basis of the perjury charge against Andrews was that he refused to identify Shaw as Clay Bertrand.

(Man with scar over left eye, CE 2370 XXV 349.