

ES, MONDAY, JULY 17, 1967

GARRISON, ON TV, ANSWERS CRITICS

Warren Report 'Fairy Tale,' Prosecutor Declares

Special to The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS, July 15—District Attorney Jim Garrison said in a nationwide television program Saturday night that the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin of President Kennedy was a "fairy tale."

"President Kennedy was assassinated by men who sought to obtain a radical change in our foreign policy, particularly in regard to Cuba," Mr. Garrison said.

The New Orleans prosecutor said that he intended to pursue his investigation until the "truth" has become known.

The 6-foot-6-inch New Orleans attorney was granted 30 minutes of air time by the National Broadcasting Company to answer an N.B.C. program of June 19 that had criticized methods used by Mr. Garrison in his eight-month-long investigation.

Before the program was put on the air Saturday, an associate of Mr. Garrison said that the district attorney hoped the program would dispel any belief that he had acted "irresponsibly."

During the television program, which was taped in a three-hour session in New Orleans Friday, Mr. Garrison did not comment on the arrest and indictment of Clay L. Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman who has been charged with conspiring with Oswald and others to murder President Kennedy.

Mr. Garrison has said that the conspiracy took place in New Orleans in the fall of 1963.

Hits 'Eastern News Agencies'

Much of Saturday's program was devoted to an attack on what the district attorney referred to as "Eastern news agencies." He said that the national news media had joined together to keep the truth of the assassination from the public. Mr. Garrison did not say what motive he ascribed to the news media. Previously, he had said that newspapers, magazines, and radio and television networks were getting orders from "powerful" Government officials in Washington.

Using a chart from the Warren Commission report showing the commission's theory of how Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas had been wounded three times by one rifle bullet, Mr. Garrison said the bullet would have had to be "magic" to have wounded President Kennedy as the commission had concluded. The bullet would have had to go up and then down, Mr. Garrison said.

The truth, Mr. Garrison said, is that there were at least three assassins in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. Two were firing from the rear and one from the right front in Dealey Plaza in Dallas as President Kennedy and Governor Connally and their wives drove along in a parade, Mr. Garrison said.

Mr. Kennedy and Governor Connally were struck almost simultaneously by bullets from the rear and the President was hit by a bullet from the front, he went on.

"That's why the idea that Lee Harvey Oswald was a lone assassin was a fairy tale," he said.

Mr. Garrison said that "hundreds" of documents that could help prove that a conspiracy existed have been withheld. Others have been burned, he said.

"This case has more accidental fires, more burning of papers, than any murder case in history," he said.

In his attack on the news media, Mr. Garrison mentioned only N.B.C. and Newsweek magazine by name. "Their aim is to fool you," he said. "These people want the investigation stopped."

Mr. Garrison said that a Newsweek story that a witness, Alvin Beaubouef, had been offered money to testify as Mr. Garrison wanted him to, had been proved to be wrong. N.B.C., he said, "already has had a trial" of Mr. Shaw. "The defendant has been acquitted and the district attorney convicted," he said.

Mr. Garrison said that he believed the attacks by news media on him and his investigation were attempts to influence the outcome of the trial. No date has been set for Mr. Shaw's trial.

Two newsmen who helped prepare the June 19 N.B.C. program have been charged by Mr. Garrison with attempting to bribe or to intimidate witnesses. One, Richard Townley of New Orleans, has been released on \$7,500 bond. The other, Walter J. Sheridan, an investigator for N.B.C., has not yet been arrested.

STATEMENT BY N.B.C.

The National Broadcasting Company issued the following statement last night:

"District Attorney Jim Garrison said nothing in his program tonight that alters the information developed by N.B.C. News about the methods he has used in pressing his theory of the Kennedy assassination. During most of his appearance, Mr. Garrison did not deal with the specific criticisms N.B.C. News had made. Instead, he repeated his version of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Garrison, at his request, was given time by

N.B.C. to respond to the N.B.C. News Program, 'The J.F.K. Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison.'

Mr. Garrison made two references to the N.B.C. Program:

1. N.B.C. News had reported that it had located the true Clay Bertrand and that his name had been given to the United States Department of Justice. Mr. Garrison claimed this man has denied he is Bertrand. N.B.C. News stands by the statements made on its program.
 2. Mr. Garrison said that John Cancler, who had appeared on the N.B.C. Program, had been called before the grand jury and had been asked about the truth of his statements on the program. Mr. Cancler refused to answer, invoking the Fifth Amendment. The fact that he availed himself of his constitutional rights does not affect the truth of his statements.
- Mr. Garrison claims N.B.C. has been silent on these two points. This is untrue. N.B.C. News has reported on the N.B.C. television network that counsel for the man identified as Clay Bertrand has denied that identity and that Mr. Cancler has invoked the Fifth Amendment before the Grand Jury.

Mr. Garrison's contention that N.B.C. News has conspired with government agencies and other news media to discredit his activities also is untrue. N.B.C. News presented 'The J.F.K. Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison' on its own initiative in a spirit of journalistic enterprise.