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With New Orleans Probe A066NW 320

WASHINGTON AP — Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N.Y., warmly defended Tuesday night the honesty and integrity of television reporter Walter Sheridan, accused by New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of trying to bribe a witness in Garrison's investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The senator noted that Sheridan had worked with both himself and his slain brother, before taking on his present job as an investigative reporter for the National Broadcasting Co.

He said it was impossible that Sheridan might do anything to compromise the truth in the assassination investigation.

Kennedy's statement said:

"I have been fortunate to know and work with Walter Sheridan for many years. Like all those who have known him and his work, I have the utmost confidence in his integrity, both personal and professional.

This view was shared by President Kennedy himself, with whom Mr. Sheridan was associated for many years in a relationship of utmost trust, confidence and affection.

His personal ties to President Kennedy, as well as his own integrity, insure that he would want as much as, or more than any other man to ascertain the truth about the events of November 1963.

"It is not possible that Mr. Sheridan would do anything which would in the slightest degree, compromise the truth in regard to the investigation in New Orleans."

Sheridan was a special assistant to Robert Kennedy, when the latter was Attorney General in his brother's administration.

Sheridan had also worked with both men as a staff member of the McClellan committee which investigated labor rackets, when John F. Kennedy was a Senator and committee member and Robert was the committee's chief of staff.

Sheridan, 41, of Washington, surrendered in New Orleans Tuesday to face Garrison's charges, and was freed on \$5,000 bond.

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