

Kennedy assassination trials

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles on New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison and his investigation of the Kennedy assassination. This article deals with Garrison's investigation and with the case Garrison intends to present in a New Orleans courtroom early in April. When the trial begins, a reporter in New Orleans will file exclusive reports with the Gater and will telephone courtroom news to us as it breaks.

by Robert Simon

It was just a year ago that New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison announced that he and his staff had uncovered a plot to kill President Kennedy. In this past year, Garrison has had his entire staff on this investigation, and if nothing else, it has brought the state of law enforcement in New Orleans to a stand-still. The Christian Science Monitor reports that some 4000 cases have been bottled up in the DA's office since early 1967, when the probe went into high gear. At one point, it was reported that 900 prisoners were confined in Parish Prison, a facility with a normal accommodation of 700.

When Garrison broke word of his investigation, public reactions were mixed. There were those who immediately thought that Garrison was using the assassination to create some sort of political career for himself; at one point there was a rumor afloat that Garrison would seek a seat in the US Senate. But to the present, these suggestions have failed to materialize.

RACKET-BUSTER

Then there were those who felt that Garrison would not have made his charges without substantial evidence to back them up. This group pointed to the DA's record as a racket-buster, who ran on a reform platform and kept his campaign promises.

Soon after he took office, Garrison closed Bourbon St. clip-joints, cracked down on prostitution, and eliminated bail-bond rackets. He purportedly turned down a Mob proposition that would have netted him close to \$3000 a week in slot-machine proceeds.

Moreover, Garrison has one of the highest conviction-per-arrest records of any DA in the country. His tightly-run office has not lost a major case, and none of his convictions have been reversed in appeal courts due to improper procedures.

SHAW

On March 1, 1967, just a month after announcement of Garrison's investigation, the New Orleans DA arrested Clay L. Shaw, a former director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart. Shaw

was charged with conspiring to assassinate the President.

Shaw's arrest shocked New Orleans society. Cited by Town and Country Magazine as one of the most important men in that city, Shaw was also a very well decorated major during World War II. He was honored by both France and Belgium and was Chief-of-Staff under Brigadier General C. O. Thrasher in England.

Returning to civilian life in March, 1964, Shaw was named to the staff of the International Trade Mart. Soon he became Promotional Director of the important world marketing center and later was selected to run the Mart as Managing Director.

In connection with his duties at the Trade Mart, Shaw traveled extensively. Garrison has evidence that on at least two occasions, Shaw visited Cuba. Shaw contends that these trips were to promote trade.

LINK

Indications are that Garrison's evidence will link Lee Harvey Oswald with the Cuban exile movement in New Orleans, and with a man named David Ferrie, an airplane pilot who was found dead just two days after the Garrison probe was made public. Coronors ruled that Ferrie died of a cerebral hemorrhage, but Garrison believes otherwise.

In a statement made at the preliminary hearing, Perry Russo, a Baton Rouge insurance salesman, said that he heard Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie plan the segments of the assassination. The planning, he said, took place at Ferrie's apartment in New Orleans two months before the President was shot.

Shaw has denied being at such a meeting and furthermore claims he never met Oswald or Ferrie.

Ferrie was an Eastern Airlines pilot until 1962, when he was dismissed after a Federal Aviation Agency hearing which cited him for moral turpitude and contributing to the delinquency of minors. Ferrie was considered one of Eastern's best pilots and had held a position in the Louisiana Civil Air Patrol as far back as 1958. Oswald joined the same local squadron in that year.

RAIDS

After his firing from Eastern, Ferrie started his own airlines company, the Falcon Squadron, and according to Garrison's investigators, Ferrie began making fire-bomb

raids over Cuba.

Ferrie was hired to make these raids by Eladio Del Valle, a man who had made a small fortune smuggling cigarettes and other goods into Cuba during the days of Batista. When Castro took power, Del Valle was no longer able to carry on his operations and so joined up with anti-Castro forces.

Oddly enough, Del Valle was found dead in the back seat of his red Cadillac in Miami, the same day Ferrie was found dead in New Orleans. Del Valle had been beaten over the head and shot through the heart.

Garrison had planned to arrest Ferrie within a week of the announcement of his investigation, on the charge of conspiring to assassinate the President. When Ferrie was turned up dead two days after the announcement, Garrison claimed that Ferrie was "one of history's most important individuals." The DA's historical perspectives were quickly questioned.

But Garrison believes he has hard evidence linking Ferrie with the Central Intelligence Agency.

In late 1961, speaking before the Military Order of World Wars in New Orleans, Ferrie said that he trained pilots in Guatemala for the Bay of Pigs and that he was very disappointed they were not used.

As late as June 1963, the CIA was sponsoring the training of several five-man guerrilla warfare units in St. Tammany Parish near Lacombe, Louisiana. This was done under the auspices of the State Department and the US Marine Corps. Ferrie was the Commander in charge of training many of these units. Their ultimate goal was to launch, in unison with Cuban exiles, a second Bay of Pigs invasion.

President Kennedy knew of the existence of the CIA training camps, but in the early summer of 1963 he ordered their dissolution and the FBI acting on his orders, on July 31, 1963, seized over a ton of war munitions at a cabin near the guerrilla unit training site. Included in the cache were one hundred pound bomb castings, power, blasting caps and primer cord.

Indications are that the Cuban refugee groups and other parties became angered at the President for closing the door on government military aid to them and their cause.

In recently issuing a grand jury subpoena for Allen W. Dulles, the former director of the CIA, Garrison announced that the involvement of high government officials in the assassination of President Kennedy become more and more apparent.

Garrison said that his office "has succeeded in identifying the assassination of President Kennedy as an operation conducted by elements of the CIA," and that Dulles was needed to testify about CIA activities.

"This office intends to demonstrate that the CIA made a mistake in using Orleans Parish as a staging area for the Kennedy assassination, and that the federal government has made an equally bad mistake in attempting to conceal this fact and in attempting to obstruct justice in Orleans Parish," Garrison said.

Note: The next article in this series will deal with Lee Harvey Oswald's assassination role as seen by Garrison and his investigators. It will also explore the implication of other suspects in Garrison's probe.

SDS meeting today to form anti-draft union

Because 160 of the 228 male senior and graduate students at SF State who were polled in the recent SDS draft survey announced they would refuse induction, an on-campus anti-draft union will take shape at a forum today in ED 241.

Different methods of combating the Selective Service will be discussed, including the Canadian exile route, jail protests, legal grounds, and underground organization within the army itself.

Sam Triplett and Chuck Koloms, spokesman for the union, announced that alternatives to the draft are multiplying. France, they said, is now offering political asylum and work permits.

EC to Big Sur

SF State's Experimental College in conjunction with Big Sur's Esalen Institute will be sponsoring six campus week-ends of fantasies and discoveries.

The six different three-day sessions, which begin this week-end, will be devoted to "turning on to yourself so you can relate to other people," according to Vickie Mogilner, a member of the EC's Esalen staff.

The Esalen Program, which privately sponsors an ongoing residence institute in the rugged Big Sur mountains, is a new approach to sensory awareness and communication.

"The Institute utilizes many different methods and ideas, psychological, educational, and artistic, in its attempt to innovate inter-personal encounter groups," Miss Mogilner said.

This semester members of the EC staff plan to start an Esalen program on campus. To develop the concept six Esalen fellows will lead sessions of sensory awareness and exploration.

From April 5-7 Bernard Gunther, well known author of three books on sensitivity, will lead approximately 300 people on "consciousness centering trips."

Gunther, a Big Sur resident, concentrates on non-verbal communication to maximize body awareness and personal sensitivity.

"He takes people on such trips as touching, closing your eyes and fantasizing, and being blind," Miss Mogilner said. "He helps you discover your senses."

Gunther's week-end, Friday from 7-10 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday from 9 a.m.-noon, costs \$10 for faculty and non-students, \$7.50 for students. Participants should wear slacks and bring blankets. Tickets and further information can be obtained at the EC office, Hut D.

This week-end Edwin Maupin will explore the dimensions of meditation with a smaller group of people.

Esalen techniques, used for therapy in such places as Sonoma State Hospital, include Fritz Perls' gestalt psychology and Wilhelm Reich's oft-neglected orgonomy.

The EC staffers hope to make the Esalen Program a continuing, expanding part of SF State's innovational education.

Five professors and numerous students are already involved in the program. Anyone wishing to become involved in the effort can contact the EC office.

Accounting Majors

Excellent opportunity for above average June or Sept. grad with medium size Oakland, Calif. CPA firm.

PHONE COLLECT FOR INTERVIEW
893-6908

SOVIET '68 Study-Pleasure Tour

71 Days—\$780.00

Led by:
Mrs. Betty Bernstein
Asst. Prof. of Russian,
San Fernando Valley
State College,
Northridge, Calif.

(The State College System is not connected with and is not sponsoring this tour.)

Use Gater Classifieds

27mar68

gar

SF State College Daily Gater
Robert Simon pseudonym of Bob Hyatt