

Report New Orleans DA Probing Kennedy's Death

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 17 (UPI)—The New Orleans States-Item said today in a copyrighted story the Orleans parish (county) district attorney's office has been investigating some aspects of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"The possibility of a well-organized assassination plot in which New Orleans and New Orleans residents were somehow directly involved is said to be at the center of the investigation," the paper said.

District Attorney Jim Garrison was not available for comment, but the newspaper said

he refused to confirm or deny the investigation was underway.

Presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald lived in New Orleans as a youngster and attended school here. He created a stir shortly before the President's slaying by distributing "Fair Play for Cuba" handbills on a downtown street and engaging in a radio debate with Edward S. Butler, director of the Information Council of the Americas.

The paper reported Garrison's office has been spending "out-of-the-ordinary sums of money" on the investigation.

The story said trial assist-

ants and investigators have spent more than \$8,000 on travel expenses since No. 24.

Most of the money, the newspaper said, was spent in connection with visits to Dallas, Houston, Miami, Washington, San Francisco and the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola.

The Warren Commission report emphasized the belief that Oswald, acting alone, was responsible for Kennedy's death.

The New Orleans investigation, the newspaper said, was started before the death of Jack Ruby, who had been charged, tried and convicted of killing Oswald.