

EA1031NU

GARRISON: 2ND NL 190

BY BILL CRIDER

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS, FEB. 28 (AP)-DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S OFFICE TODAY SUBPOENAED A "JAMES LEVALLEN" TO APPEAR TOMORROW IN CONNECTION WITH GARRISON'S INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

IT WAS THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FIRST PUBLIC OVERT ACTION SINCE HIS WIDELY PUBLICIZED PROBE BEGAN LAST OCTOBER.

NO INFORMATION ABOUT LEVALLEN WAS REVEALED BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN ITS BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT.

DIST. JUDGE BERNARD BASCART, WHO SIGNED THE SUBPOENA, SAID LEVALLEN HAD REFUSED TO TAKE A LIE DETECTOR TEST AND THAT THE SUBPOENA WAS ISSUED TO REQUIRE HIM TO REPORT TO GARRISON'S OFFICE TO MAKE A STATEMENT.

NEWSMEN HAD CONGREGATED IN GARRISON'S OFFICE FOR A PROMISED SUMMATION OF THE CONTROVERSIAL INVESTIGATION. AFTER A LONG WAIT, ASST. DIST. ATTY. NUMA BERTEL APPEARED AND ANNOUNCED THAT LEVALLEN HAD BEEN SUBPOENAED. HE REFUSED TO ELABORATE OR ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

THE SUBPOENA FOLLOVED AN OFFICIAL RULING BY THE CORONER THAT FREE LANCE PILOT DAVID V. FERRIE'S DEATH WAS FROM "NATURAL CAUSES." GARRISON MAINTAINS FERRIE COMMITTED SUICIDE WHILE UNDER INVESTIGATION.

FERRIE, 45, ETC., 2ND PGH NL, A83NU.

61750PES

A83NU

GARRISON NL 510

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NEW ORLEANS, FEB. 28 (AP)--THE OFFICIAL RULING TODAY WAS "NATURAL CAUSES" IN THE DEATH OF FREE LANCE PILOT DAVID W. FERRIE, A MAN DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON MAINTAINS COMMITTED SUICIDE WHILE UNDER INVESTIGATION IN A PROBE OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

FERRIE, 48, WAS FOUND DEAD IN BED LAST WEDNESDAY WITH A SHEET PULLED UP TO HIS CHEST. GARRISON SAID "EVIDENCE DEVELOPED BY OUR OFFICE HAD LONG SINCE CONFIRMED THAT HE (FERRIE) WAS INVOLVED IN EVENTS CULMINATING IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY."

FERRIE WAS STRICKEN BY A BRAIN HEMORRHAGE WHILE UNDER INVESTIGATION BY GARRISON.

DR. NICHOLAS CHETTA, THE ORLEANS PARISH (COUNTY) CORONER, SAID FERRIE DEFINITELY WAS KILLED BY HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, WHICH BLEW OUT A WEAK VEIN AT THE BASE OF THE BRAIN LIKE AN OLD INNER TUBE.

"IT WOULD BE EASY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SAY THIS IS AN EMOTIONAL SUICIDE, BUT WE CANNOT CLASSIFY IT AS SUCH," SAID DR. CHETTA.

"THIS MAN DIED A NATURAL DEATH. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND, CERTAINLY NOT MURDER OR SUICIDE."

FERRIE REPEATEDLY DENIED EVER KNOWING LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE FORMER NEW ORLEANS RESIDENT NAMED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION AS THE SNIPER WHO KILLED KENNEDY NOV. 22, 1963.

AN INFORMANT LINKED FERRIE TO OSWALD IN 1963. THIS RESULTED IN FERRIE BEING INTENSIVELY QUESTIONED ABOUT THE ACCUSATIONS, WHICH INCLUDED A CLAIM THAT HE WAS TO BE THE "GETAWAY PILOT" FOR THE ASSASSIN. FERRIE WAS CLEARED BY THE FBI AND SECRET SERVICE.

A84NU

GARRISON QUESTIONED FERRIE AGAIN LAST NOVEMBER. HE SAID FERRIE'S DEATH CAME JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE HE WAS TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

THE NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM REPORTED TODAY THAT A LEVEE BOARD POLICEMAN HAD TOLD GARRISON THAT HE CAME UPON TWO MEN IN A PARKED CAR AT THE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN SHORE EARLY ONE MORNING IN 1963--AND THAT ONE WAS OSWALD AND THE OTHER FERRIE.

THE NEWSPAPER LATER REPORTED THAT THE MAN WITH OSWALD WAS NOT FERRIE BUT APPARENTLY WAS CONNECTED WITH ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE CASE.

THE FINAL REPORT ON FERRIE'S DEATH CAME AFTER NEARLY A WEEK OF PAINSTAKING TOXICOLOGICAL TESTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY DRUG, CHEMICAL OF POISON WAS INVOLVED.

DR. CHETTA SAID THERE IS NO WAY TO INDUCE A BRAIN HEMORRHAGE BY TAKING DRUGS, THOUGH THE HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE WHICH LED TO THE HEMORRHAGE COULD HAVE BEEN DUE TO STRESS.

HOWEVER, PUZZLING POINTS REMAINED. FOR INSTANCE, A TYPEWRITTEN, UNDATED LETTER WHICH BEGAN:

"WHEN YOU READ THIS I WILL BE QUITE DEAD. SO NO ANSWER WILL BE POSSIBLE."

IT WENT ON:

"I WONDER HOW YOU ARE GOING TO JUSTIFY AND RATIONALIZE THINGS. TOMMY AND YOU TREATED ME AS YOU DID BECAUSE I WAS THE ONE ALWAYS GOT IN TROUBLE:

THE POLICE ARRESTS

THE STRIPPED CAR CHARGE

THE DEAL AT KOHN SCHOOL

FLYING BAROGONA IN THE BEACH, ETC.

"WELL, I GUESS THAT HELPS EASE YOUR CONSCIENCE, EVEN IF IT IS NOT THE TRUTH. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT I OFFERED YOU LOVE AND THE BEST I COULD. ALL I GOT IN RETURN, IN THE END, WAS KICK IN THE TEETH. HENCE I DIE ALONE AND UNLOVED . . .

A85NU

"I WONDER WHAT YOUR LAST DAYS AND HOURS ARE GOING TO BE LIKE. AS YOU SOW, SO SHALL YOU REAP.

"GOODBYE. DAVE."

THE LETTER, ADDRESSED TO "DEAR AL," WAS IN ADDITION TO ANOTHER TYPEWRITTEN, UNDATED, UNSIGNED NOTE WHICH COMPLAINED ABOUT POLICE METHODS AND AMERICAN JUSTICE, AND SAID DEATH WAS "A SWEET PROSPECT."

DR. CHETTA SAID FERRIE WAS AN INTELLIGENT PSYCHOPATH, CAPABLE OF VIOLENT ACTS.

A STRANGE COLLECTION OF GUNS AND EQUIPMENT WAS FOUND IN FERRIE'S APARTMENT, CHETTA SAID. IT INCLUDED THREE RIFLES, A 100 POUND PRACTICE AERIAL BOMB, A BAYONET, TWO SIGNAL CORPS FIELD TELEPHONES, A RADIO TRANSMITTER TUNER UNIT, A RADIO RECEIVER TUNER UNIT, A FLARE GUN, SHOTGUN SHELLS AND SEVERAL CAMERAS.

G519 PCS