

Reagan Balks In JFK Probe

D.A. Garrison Turned Down On Extradition

From the Los Angeles Times, AP, UPI

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Ronald Reagan refused Friday to extradite Edgar Eugene Bradley to New Orleans to stand trial on a charge of conspiring to assassinate John F. Kennedy.

Reagan's decision came nearly 11 months after New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison formally charged Bradley.

The governor said his decision was "based upon insufficient showing by Louisiana that Bradley had been in that state between August, 1963, and Nov. 22, 1963," as was charged in the extradition papers.

Bradley, 50, lives in North Hollywood and is West Coast business representative of Dr. Carl McIntire, an evangelist who makes fundamentalist religious radio broadcasts.

Shortly after Regan's decision was announced, Judge Joan Dempsey Klein dismissed an extradition complaint against Bradley in Los Angeles Municipal Court.

Judge Klein acted on a recommendation by Deputy Dist. Atty. Joseph Carr.

Edwin Meese, Reagan's legal affairs secretary, presided over a lengthy extradition hearing in June.

Consideration of guilt or innocence was not involved, said Meese, only "the requirement of the extradition law."

However, Meese noted: "Louisiana officials were given the opportunity to present witnesses to substantiate allegations (about Bradley) ... but declined to do so."

"Naturally, I'm pleased," said Bradley upon learning about the governor's decision. "Now I challenge Mr. Garrison, if he is sincere, to come out here and question me to his heart's content."

Previously, Bradley had said he feared he would be "framed" if he had to stand trial in Louisiana and his life might be endangered.

Ever since Garrison's charge Dec. 20, Bradley has steadfastly maintained that he had no knowledge of the assassination.

He knew none of the others implicated by Garrison and was in his home on Nov. 22, 1963.

Garrison claimed Bradley was

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in Dallas the day the late president was shot, and plotted the assassination.

Part of Garrison's case was based on an affidavit by a former Dallas deputy sheriff who said he saw Bradley on the steps of the Texas Schoolbook

depository shortly after Kennedy was shot from a window in the building.

Bradley contended that he was on a bus between Tulsa, Okla., and El Paso, Tex., at the time of the murder.

At the extradition hearing in Sacramento more than five months ago, Bradley's attorney presented a meticulous documentation of his client's steps for several months before the Dallas slaying.

Attorney George Jensen's presentation appeared to demolish nearly all of Garrison's contentions while clearing Bradley.

Bradley denied that he had

been in New Orleans before April 1967 — more than three years after the assassination. He also said he had never been at Lakeport Airport, where Garrison charged the plot was hatched.

Jensen said Bradley had been the victim of mistaken identity.

Jensen produced a fuzzy photograph at the hearing of a man he said the New Orleans prosecutor had identified as Bradley. He said the man Garrison claims was Bradley was taller, lankier and younger than his client. He said the only resemblance was a cleft in the chin.

While Garrison has issued numerous subpoenas for persons he claimed had knowledge of a plot to kill President Kennedy, Bradley was only the second individual charged by the Louisiana prosecutor since his controversial investigation became public knowledge two years ago.

The other is Clay Shaw, 55, New Orleans civic leader, arrested there March 1, 1967.

Shaw's attorneys, thus far, have successfully stalled Garrison's efforts to try him. Currently the case is on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, the result of a suit against Garrison charging him with violating Shaw's civil rights.

The Warren Report found that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed Kennedy. But Garrison disputed the finding and has waged an independent investigation of his own.



EDGAR E. BRADLEY
... 11-month fight