

# Jim Garrison Is Arrested; U.S. Says He Took Bribes

By ROY REED JUL 1 1971

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NEW ORLEANS, June 30— District Attorney Jim Garrison was arrested by Federal agents today and charged with taking bribes to protect illegal pinball gambling in New Orleans.

The Justice Department said that the last payment, \$1,000, was delivered to Mr. Garrison at his home last night in marked \$50 bills. The payment, the department said, was handed to him by a once-trusted confidant who had secretly gone to work for the Government's agents.

Mr. Garrison, 50 years old, who attempted to prove a conspiracy in the assassination of

President Kennedy in 1963, was taken into custody at his home. He was fingerprinted and placed under \$5,000 bond by a Federal magistrate.

The Justice Department said that Mr. Garrison had taken up to \$1,500 a month in bribes.

According to the Government, Mr. Garrison had received the bribes from pinball operators since 1962.

"I've never accepted a dollar in my life," the District Attorney told reporters as he walked into the French Quarter Courthouse to face the mag-

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## Jim Garrison Seized in New Orleans

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istrate.

Mr. Garrison was one of 10 men arrested. The others included two ranking city policemen and several prominent officials of pinball machine companies.

The policemen were Capt. Frederick A. Soule, an investigator assigned to Mr. Garrison's staff, and Sgt. Robert N. Frey, head of the New Orleans Police Department's vice squad.

All 10 were charged with illegal gambling, bribery to obstruct law enforcement, interstate transportation of illegally used pinball machines and conspiracy to commit these acts.

### 5 Years in Prison

If convicted, they could be sentenced to five years in prison on each of the counts plus a total of \$70,000 each in fines.

The arrests were jointly announced by Attorney General John N. Mitchell in Washington and United States Attorney Gerald Gallinghouse in New



Associated Press

District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans, right, being escorted to court by a Federal agent yesterday.

Orleans. The Government said that the arrests resulted from a year's investigation by the Justice Department, assisted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service.

A Justice Department news release said that the chief evidence against Mr. Garrison had been obtained by a man who told the Government that he had served as the payoff "conduit" between pinball machine operators and the District Attorney for nine years. He was identified as Pershing Gervais, a former chief investigator for Mr. Garrison, who has worked as a private detective in recent years.

The department said that Mr. Gervais had been cooperating with its agents since 1969 and had made numerous tape recordings of conversations pertaining to the alleged transactions.

#### Aide Is Dismissed

Mr. Gervais was Mr. Garrison's chief investigator from 1962, the year the District Attorney took office, until 1965.

Mr. Garrison dismissed him after election opponents in 1965 brought up Mr. Gervais's background. He has operated several bars and bail bond businesses in addition to his work as a private investigator.

The Government affidavit said that Mr. Gervais had traced the beginning of Mr. Garrison's relationship with the New Orleans pinball dealers to 1961, when the dealers gave Mr. Garrison \$10,000 for his election campaign.

The Federal Government made its first move against pinball machine gambling in Louisiana and the nearby Mississippi Gulf Coast last October. Federal agents seized 354 gambling-type pinball machines

that month. They seized 3,000 more and 1,000 slot machines in November.

Mr. Gallinghouse, the United States Attorney, said that F.B.I. agents were executing 275 search warrants for more illegal pinball machines in the two states today.

In Washington, Mr. Mitchell described illegal pinball gambling in Louisiana alone as "a \$15-million-a-year racket."

The affidavit said that Mr. Gervais had told the Government of pinball payoffs not only to law enforcement officers but also to unnamed state legislators. Earlier this year, the Louisiana Legislature voted down several bills to regulate pinball machines and try to stop their being used for gambling.

A transcript of one tape-recorded conversation between Mr. Gervais and Mr. Garrison quotes Mr. Garrison as having promised to intercede with Gov. John J. McKeithen to try to kill the antipinball-machine bills, the affidavit said.

#### Names Are Listed

Those arrested with Mr. Garrison and the two policemen were:

Louis M. Boasberg, partner in the New Orleans Novelty

Company and the New Orleans Novelty Sales Company.

John J. Elms Jr., partner in the TAC Amusement Company of New Orleans.

Lawrence L. Lagarde, partner in TAC Amusement.

Harby S. Marks Jr., an employe of the New Orleans Novelty Company.

Robert Nims, principal stockholder of REN Enterprises, Inc.

John Elmo Pierce, owner of the

Pierce Amusement Company of New Orleans.

John Aruns Callery, a lobbyist for the pinball machine industry in the Louisiana Legislature.

Mr. Garrison lost an attempt last year to convict Clay L. Shaw, a New Orleans businessman, of conspiring to kill President Kennedy. He then filed perjury charges but a Federal judge this spring ordered him to stop further prosecution of Mr. Shaw.