

Garrison Sees Effort to Shut

Him Up

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — Big Jim Garrison looks upon his latest donnybrook with the Federal Government as Washington's revenge for his theory on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

To the New Orleans district attorney, who has long believed that a Washington-based conspiracy killed JFK, it was just a matter of time before federal agents would try to get him.

Garrison and two policemen were charged by the Justice Department last month with accepting bribes to overlook illegal pinball machine gambling. Six days later, Garrison filed his own charges against federal attorneys on grounds of a "frame-up."

The government's charges cover nine years—starting one year before the JFK slaying in Dallas. Big Jim denied the charges, saying he never received a dollar.

A 113-page federal complaint, based on the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, said Garrison received as much as \$1,500 a month from pinball company operators anxious to keep their multi-million dollar business alive. Included were transcripts of tape recordings made by a former Garrison investigator who said he was the middleman between Garrison and the gamblers.

One of the transcripts quoted Garrison as saying he could influence Louisiana Gov. John McKeithen to oppose efforts to ban gambling-type pinball machines from the state. The complaint also may have paid off a number of legislators to oppose anti-pinball legislation.

Antipinball bills were defeated in the 1970 and 1971 legislative sessions.

The 6-foot-6 district attorney said the federal charges were a frame-up concocted to silence his claims that "the military-industrial-intelligence complex" plotted the President's death in 1963.

"Sooner or later I had to be charged," Garrison said after his arrest June 30. "I thought a few years ago they'd just shoot me.

"They got me because I keep pounding away at the Pentagon complex and I said I wouldn't stop and I won't stop. I think there are sectors who know what happened to Jack Kennedy and who did it, and who feel it's worth any cost to shut me up."

Just to show that he meant business, Garrison filed state criminal charges last Tuesday against U.S. Attorney Gerald Gallinghouse and John Wall,

the attorney who led the Justice Department strike force in digging up the bribery and gambling evidence against him. He accused Gallinghouse and Wall of using threats and extortion to frame him and defame his reputation.

Gallinghouse took no chances. He asked and got a federal restraining order to prevent his and Wall's arrest, and for insurance, he had U.S. marshals cordon off his office.

"It's really pathetic to see a man who holds his position of trust stooping to such shame-

ful propaganda practices," Gallinghouse said. "Nothing surprises me about Mr. Garrison."

At week's end, attorneys for Garrison and the Federal Government were arguing over where the district attorney's charges would be tried—in state or federal court.

Garrison, a 50-year-old former FBI agent elected 10 years ago with a promise to be a tough crime fighter, first gained national recognition when he took on the city's criminal court judges. Garri-

son, who was cleaning up B-girl bars and prostitution on Bourbon Street at the time, said the judges were slackers who freed criminals to walk the streets.

The judges sued him for defamation and the case was fought all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The court ruled, in a landmark case, that public figures are not protected against defamation or libel unless malice is involved.

Oddly enough, the defamation charges against Galling-

house and Wall were based on the same law used against Garrison by the judges—the law subsequently declared unconstitutional.

Garrison also went through the entire federal court system with his prosecution of Clay Shaw on charges of conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and others in the Death of President Kennedy. Shaw was acquitted in the state court two years ago, but Garrison charged the former businessman with perjury.

The perjury charge fell this

spring when a federal judge ordered Garrison to stop prosecuting Shaw, saying the district attorney was continuing the case to promote his book, "Heritage of Stone" which deals with the presidential assassination.

The district attorney's latest battle with the Federal Government is one in which his future as a public official in the city, or any possible aspirations he has for higher office, hangs in the balance.

"I would run again for district attorney—but reluctantly," Garrison has said. There have been rumors his sights were on a U.S. Senate seat.

But the bribery and gambling charge against Garrison, and his counter-charges against the federal attorneys,

have quieted all talk of political office for a time.

Even so, several attorneys in the city have said no jury made up of residents from the area would convict Jim Garrison of bribery or gambling—in a state or federal court.