

Interview of Jim Garrison, District Attorney, New Orleans, by Ron Hunter, CBS reporter with station WWL, New Orleans. Transcript made from tape.

- Garrison: What started out as a routine investigation of possible local involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy has uncovered certain facts which we consider extremely interesting, so I would say that the investigation is no longer routine but it is now extremely interesting. And it will continue.
- Q: Mr. Garrison, the Warren Commission said that Oswald acted alone and there was no conspiracy. Apparently you do not believe the Warren Commission's Report. Is that correct?
- A: That's correct. I believe the Warren Commission was wrong and will be shown to be wrong.
- Q: Mr. Garrison, on the basis of what you've just said, then, do you feel that there should be a new investigation of the slaying of President Kennedy on a level higher than yours, such as has been suggested by some people, a new Federal investigation?
- A: Well, actually I think that effective investigation - by that I mean imaginative investigation in which there is effective evaluation and not simply the blind collection of volumes of evidence - at every level, is justified in a case like this. I would have to answer yes, except that I would hope that this time more premium would be placed on the evaluation function. But of course it would be better if more agencies cooperated and gave each other information, worked together. A matter like this justifies a number of concurrent investigations.
- Q: Mr. Garrison, has it always been your belief that the Warren Commission was inaccurate?
- A: No. As a matter of fact I think I accepted the Warren Report without question until last fall, last November, when out of curiosity I began reading and then studying this case, and then I went into the 26 volumes of the Warren Report, realized there were some questions. Then we started investigating here, and then we found that the Warren Commission was wrong.
- Q: Is your investigation, Mr. Garrison, continuing on what you've uncovered or what you think you will uncover?
- A: Our investigation is proceeding on the basis of what we have uncovered; it is not based on supposition.

- Q: Mr. Garrison, in William Manchester's book, "Death of a President", he says Oswald acted alone. Apparently this is one part of the book that hasn't raised any controversy at all as far as the Kennedys are concerned. What is your reaction to - ?
- A: Well, I was not there at the assassination scene, but I don't think Mr. Manchester was either, and I think that my office has put many more hours looking into that matter than Mr. Manchester. And I would reply that I believe that Mr. Manchester is wrong.
- Q: Mr. Garrison, some names have been released on people that you have questioned, particularly one person that you arrested 72 hours after the assassination as a fugitive from Texas. What comment do you have for this?
- A: My comment is that I think that the newspapers in mentioning the names of people whom we have not charged, whose names we have not mentioned, is very unfair to these people. In spite of the fact that we are investigating a number of individuals, in this country we presume that people are innocent until they are found guilty, and these individuals have not even been charged, and their names have been mentioned in the newspapers in such a way as to create damaging inferences. In spite of the fact that we may be investigating some of the names mentioned, I think that it is ~~very~~ unfair to them, and I am very unhappy about it.
- Q: Do you believe that any New Orleans residents were directly or indirectly involved with the assassination?
- A: No comment.