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GARRISON PROFILE (WIREPHOTO NU2)

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ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER (560)

NEW ORLEANS, FEB. 19 (AP)--JIM GARRISON, A PISTOL-PACKING DISTRICT ATTORNEY BEST KNOWN FOR HIS POLITICAL BRAWLS, IS BIDDING FOR THE INVESTIGATIVE JACKPOT OF THE CENTURY--TRYING TO PROVE A CONSPIRACY EXISTED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

THE 6-FOOT-~~6~~ DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAID "ARRESTS WILL BE MADE" AND ADDED:

"THIS IS NO MICKEY MOUSE INVESTIGATION. THERE WERE OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED BESIDES LEE HARVEY OSWALD."

THE EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION BY THE WARREN COMMISSION SHOWED THAT OSWALD--A FORMER NEW ORLEANS RESIDENT--KILLED THE PRESIDENT IN DALLAS NOV. 22, 1963, AND THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE ANYONE ELSE WAS INVOLVED.

MANY CRITICS OF THE WARREN REPORT HAVE LONG CONTENDED THERE HAD TO BE SEVERAL PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE SLAYING.

WORD THAT GARRISON WAS SNIFFING ALONG NEW TRAILS IN AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION LEAKED OUT FRIDAY IN A NEWSPAPER REPORT. GARRISON WAS NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE PUBLIC STIR.

RELUCTANTLY, HE CONFIRMED THE NEWSPAPER'S REPORT THAT THE PROBE WAS IN PROGRESS. AN ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY WAS HATCHED HERE, HE SAID, WHICH "CULMINATED IN WHAT HAPPENED IN DALLAS."

"ARRESTS WILL BE MADE," HE SAID YESTERDAY. "CHARGES WILL BE FILED AND CONVICTIONS WILL BE OBTAINED."

THAT WAS ABOUT ALL GARRISON HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE SITUATION BUT IT CAUSED EARS TO PERK UP ALL OVER THE WORLD.

GARRISON, 44, RE-ELECTED TO A SECOND FOUR-YEAR TERM LAST YEAR, HAS PLAYED HIS CARDS CLOSE TO HIS VEST. POLICE CHIEF JOSEPH GUIRRUSSO SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S ACTIVITIES REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION.

THE FBI DECLINED COMMENT.

DURING HIS SPAN IN OFFICE--HE WENT IN AS A REFORM CANDIDATE--
GARRISON HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY AND EXUBERANTLY CONTROVERSIAL.

HIS POLITICAL FIGHTS ARE ALWAYS BIGGER THAN LIFE. THE OPPONENTS
HAVE INCLUDED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE MAYOR, THE LEGISLATURE,
A CITIZENS CRIME COMMISSION AND EVEN THE EIGHT CRIMINAL DISTRICT
COURT JUDGES.

ALL EIGHT JUDGES CHARGED GARRISON WITH DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER
IN 1963, AFTER HE ACCUSED THEM OF TRYING TO CRIPPLE AN ANTI-VICE
DRIVE IN NEW ORLEANS' FRENCH QUARTER, A TOURIST STOMPING GROUND
OF NIGHT CLUBS AND STRIP JOINTS.

BEFORE IT WAS OVER, THE FIGHT WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE U.S.
SUPREME COURT, WHERE GARRISON WON.

THE HIGH COURT RULED THAT CRITICS HAVE AN UNCONDITIONAL FREEDOM
TO CRITICIZE OFFICIAL CONDUCT OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS, IF THE ELEMENT
OF DELIBERATE MALICE IS LACKING.

GARRISON, A GREYING AND PERSUASIVE GIANT WHO WEARS SIZE 14 SHOES
AND CARRIES A LITTLE SNUB-NOSED PISTOL UNDER HIS COAT, SUCCEEDED IN
GETTING THE LAST LEGISLATURE TO PASS A LAW SETTING A MAXIMUM PENALTY
OF DEATH FOR ARMED ROBBERY.

A SHREWD AND AMBITIOUS MAN, GARRISON'S CASUAL CONVERSATIONS HAVE
A PUNGENCY AND DIRECTNESS RARE IN POLITICAL CIRCLES.

HE HAS SWUNG A LOT OF POLITICAL WEIGHT HEREABOUTS BECAUSE HE WAS
ONE OF JOHN J. MCKEITHEN'S MOST ACTIVE BACKERS IN THE GUBERNATORIAL
CAMPAIGN. MCKEITHEN, A DARK HORSE CANDIDATE, WON.

DESPITE HIS PROWESS IN POLITICAL GUERRILLA WARS, GARRISON HAS YET
TO HANDLE A COURT CASE OF NATIONAL SCOPE. NONE HAVE COME HIS WAY.

THE KENNEDY CASE, IF CRITICS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION ARE RIGHT,
HOLDS A POTENTIAL AND HISTORIC JACKPOT.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE INVESTIGATION PUT THE PRESSURE ON
GARRISON. MOST OFFICIALS RESERVED COMMENT BUT IN STAMFORD, CONN.,
JOHN J. MCCLOY, A COMMISSION MEMBER, SAID:

"LET'S SEE WHAT HIS EVIDENCE IS."

"WE DID NOT SAY OSWALD ACTED ALONE," HE ADDED. "WE SAID WE
COULD FIND NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE THAT HE ACTED WITH ANYONE ELSE."
MCCLOY SAID THE COMMISSION CHECKED OSWALD'S ACTIVITIES IN NEW
ORLEANS AND THE INVESTIGATION, "AT LEAST AT THAT TIME, DIDN'T PRODUCE
ANYTHING."

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NY ONLY -- NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

NEW ORLEANS--1ST ADD DA-KENNEDY BJT X X X PRODUCE ANYTHING."

GARRISON HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY CONTROVERSIAL IN HIS SPAN IN OFFICE. HE WAS FIRST ELECTED AS A REFORM CANDIDATE FIVE YEARS AGO, WON HIS SECOND TERM EASILY LAST YEAR.

THE EIGHT JUDGES OF CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT HERE CHARGED THE PROSECUTOR WITH DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER IN 1963, AFTER HE ACCUSED THEM ~~OF TRYING TO CRIPPLE AN ANTI-VICE DRIVE IN NEW ORLEANS' SQDPQUART~~ OF TRYING TO CRIPPLE AN ANTI-VICE DRIVE IN NEW ORLEANS' FRENCH QUARTER.

BEFORE IT WAS OVER, THE FIGHT WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT, WHERE GARRISON WON.

ON OCCASIONS HE HAS CRITICIZED THE LEGISLATURE. THREE YEARS AGO THE LEGISLATURE UNANIMOUSLY CENSURED HIM FOR "DELIBERATELY MALIGNING ALL OF THE MEMBERS."

"I AM GREATLY HONORED," COMMENTED GARRISON WHEN HE LEARNED OF THE 39-0 SENATE VOTE AND THE 99-0 HOUSE VOTE.

THERE WAS TALK IN THE LEGISLATURE OF REMOVING GARRISON FROM OFFICE. GARRISON NEVER TOOK BACK WHAT HE SAID AND LAST SUMMER HE PERSUADED THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS A LAW SETTING A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF DEATH FOR ARMED ROBBERY.

PERIODICALLY, GARRISON TAKES OUT AFTER THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, CAUSING SUPT. OF POLICE JOSEPH I. GIARRUSSO NO END OF HEADACHES. GARRISON HAS MADE ACCUSATIONS OF POLICE CORRUPTION, BRUTALITY AND "SOLID RESISTANCE TO INVESTIGATION OF ORGANIZED VICE."

GARRISON, 44, SWINGS A LOT OF POLITICAL WEIGHT HEREABOUTS BECAUSE HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE BACKERS OF GOV. JOHN J. MCKEITHEN THREE YEARS AGO. MCKEITHEN, A DARK HORSE CANDIDATE, WON.

THE TWO DAILY NEWSPAPERS, THE TIMES-PICAYUNE AND ITS AFTERNOON SISTER, THE NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM, ~~BACKED GARRISON STRONGLY WHEN HE FIRST RAN FOR OFFICE. GARRISON AND THE PAPERS HAVE COME TO A PARTING OF THE WAYS SINCE THEN~~ AND IT WAS THE STATES-ITEM WHICH FIRST BROKE THE STORY OF HIS KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PROBE.

IN LOUISIANA, DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ARE THE MOST POWERFUL LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS.

CURRENTLY, THERE IS A TRUCE BETWEEN GARRISON AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. BUT HE'S NEVER TAKEN BACK HIS CLAIM THAT "CORRUPTION EXTENDS DEEP INTO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT."

NOR HAS HE PROVED IT.

IN 1963, GARRISON SAID HE WOULD RUN FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL. BUT HE DIDN'T.

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