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U R G E N T

20 FEB 1967
405' PCS
TO
903 PCS

GARRISON-KENNEDY (300 UP)

BY CHRIS ROBERTS

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS, FEB. 20 (AP)-DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON SAID TODAY HE IS QUITE CONFIDENT HE CAN PROVE THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY. BUT GARRISON SAID ARRESTS "ARE MOST CERTAINLY MONTHS AWAY."

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF ORLEANS PARISH (COUNTY) APPEARING AT A CROWDED NEWS CONFERENCE, REITERATED THAT HIS INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION HAS MADE PROGRESS. HE BEGAN HIS PROBE LAST OCTOBER.

"THERE IS NO QUESTION THERE WILL BE ARRESTS, CHARGES AND CONVICTIONS," HE SAID. BUT HE SAID PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF THE PROBE BY NEW ORLEANS NEWSPAPERS HAS SERIOUSLY HAMPERED THE INVESTIGATION.

"AFTER THIS, I AM NOT GOING TO GIVE OUT INTERVIEWS," HE SAID. "WE DON'T WANT PUBLICITY."

GARRISON SAID ARRESTS OF THOSE HE BELIEVES CONSPIRED TO KILL THE LATE PRESIDENT "PROBABLY WERE JUST A FEW WEEKS AWAY UNTIL THE DISCLOSURES BY THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS. NOW THEY ARE MOST CERTAINLY MONTHS AWAY."

ASKED IF HE THOUGHT ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY OR ANY OFFICIAL WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION, GARRISON SAID "NO."

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, WAVING A LONG GREEN CIGAR, SAID HE EXPECTS TO OBTAIN CONVICTIONS FOR CONSPIRING TO KILL KENNEDY AND FOR BEING ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT--THAT IS, "HAVING SUBSTANTIAL KNOWLEDGE...AND WITHHOLDING INFORMATION."

EMPHASIZING HIS DISPLEASURE WITH THE TWO NEW ORLEANS NEWSPAPERS, HE BARRED THEIR REPORTERS FROM THE NEWS CONFERENCE, HELD AT A LOCAL MOTEL.

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GARRISON'S PROBE, FIRST REPORTED LAST FRIDAY, HAS DRAWN WORLDWIDE ATTENTION. IT HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH BOTH PRAISE AND SKEPTICISM.

IN WASHINGTON, SEN. THOMAS J. DODD, D-CONN., CALLED FOR THE WARREN COMMISSION TO REOPEN ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION TO DETERMINE IF LEE HARVEY OSWALD HAD COMMUNIST CONSPIRATORS.

THE COMMISSION, IN ITS REPORT, NAMED OSWALD AS THE SLAYER AND SAID IT FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF A PLOT.

DODD, A MEMBER OF THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE, SAID HE IS IMPRESSED THAT GARRISON "FEELS CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO SPEAK IN SUCH POSITIVE TERMS OF HIS FINDINGS."

GARRISON HAS SAID HE HAS NO INTENTION OF TURNING HIS INFORMATION OVER TO THE WARREN COMMISSION OR OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES. HE SAID HE WILL SHOW THE CONSPIRACY WAS PLOTTED IN NEW ORLEANS, WHERE OSWALD LIVED DURING THE SUMMER OF 1963.

IN DALLAS, ASST. DIST. ATTY. BILL ALEXANDER SAID HE PLACES LITTLE FAITH IN GARRISON'S CLAIM A PLOT EXISTED AND WAS HATCHED IN NEW ORLEANS. KENNEDY WAS SHOT AND KILLED IN DALLAS NOV. 22, 1963.

TWO DAYS LATER OSWALD WAS SHOT AND KILLED BY JACK RUBY, DALLAS NIGHT-SPOT OPERATOR.

ONE OF RUBY'S FORMER ATTORNEYS, SOL A. DANN OF DETROIT, CALLED TODAY FOR AN IMMEDIATE INQUIRY BY EITHER A FEDERAL OR LOUISIANA GRAND JURY INTO WHETHER A PLAN WAS DEVELOPED IN NEW ORLEANS--AS GARRISON CLAIMS-- WHICH CULMINATED IN KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION.

DANN SAID HE MADE THE REQUEST IN TELEGRAMS TO GARRISON AND LOUISIANA ATTY. GEN. JACK GREMILLION.

"THE WARREN REPORT IS UNSUCCESSFUL AND NOT COMPLETE," GARRISON TOLD THE NEWS CONFERENCE.

ASKED TO PINPOINT ANY SECTIONS OF THE WARREN REPORT THAT WERE SHAKY, HE SAID:

"THERE IS TOO MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT SOME AREAS, AND NOT ENOUGH ABOUT OTHERS."

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GARRISON SAID HE HAS SET UP "A SMALL TASK FORCE OF UNUSUALLY COMPETENT POLICE OFFICERS, ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND A PRIVATE DETECTIVE" TO HANDLE THE INVESTIGATION. "WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS. ARRESTS WILL BE MADE AND CONVICTIONS WILL BE OBTAINED."

THE REMAINDER OF THE INVESTIGATION, HE SAID, WILL BE FINANCED FROM MONEY BORROWED FROM BANKS AND "SOME CONTRIBUTIONS I THINK WILL RECEIVE."

GARRISON SAID THIS WOULD PREVENT NEW ORLEANS NEWSPAPERS FROM CHECKING EXPENSE VOUCHERS IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE AND DETERMINING

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WHEN REPORTER JOE DARBY OF THE TIMES-PICAYUNE ATTEMPTED TO ENTER THE ROOM AT THE START OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE, HIS WAY WAS BARRED. GARRISON SHOUTED, "REMOVE 'EM BY FORCE. THROW THEM OUT IF NECESSARY."

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SPENT BETTER THAN HALF OF THE HOUR-LONG NEWS CONFERENCE EXPLAINING HIS REASONS FOR EXCLUDING THE TWO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS. HE SAID QUESTIONING OF HIS WITNESSES BY THE TWO NEWSPAPERS CAUSED A SERIOUS SETBACK TO HIS INVESTIGATION.

"WE CAN'T CHANCE A RISK TO OUR WITNESSES," HE SAID. "I AM NOT TRYING TO PUNISH THEM (THE NEWSPAPERS)...I CAN'T TAKE ANY FURTHER RISKS."

GARRISON SAID A TALK HE HAD LAST FALL WITH SEN. RUSSELL LONG, D-LA., TOUCHED OFF THE INVESTIGATION. HE SAID THE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER TALKED ABOUT "THE INCONGRUITY OF GETTING ALL THOSE SHOTS OFF IN THE SEQUENCE CONCLUDED (BY THE WARREN REPORT)...THAT MADE ME RAISE QUESTIONS OF MY OWN."

LOUISIANA GOV. JOHN MCKEITHEN SAID HE HAS KNOWN OF THE GARRISON INVESTIGATION SINCE CHRISTMAS. MCKEITHEN SAID IF GARRISON SHOULD ASK FOR ANY COOPERATION FROM THE STATE, IT WOULD BE PROVIDED.

"THIS IS OUR FIFTH YEAR IN OFFICE AND WE'VE NEVER LOST A MURDER CASE," GARRISON SAID. "AND I INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY."

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NEW ORLEANS--SECOND ADD NIGHT LEAD GARRISON-KENNEDY (A57-59NU AND FIRST ADD A79NU) AFTER LAST GRAF A79NU X X X THAT WAY."

MEANWHILE, A ONETIME PRIVATE DETECTIVE, DAVID LEWIS, 26, SAID HE OBSERVED OSWALD SEVERAL TIMES WITH AT LEAST FIVE MEN HE SAYS GARRISON BELIEVES CONSPIRED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION.

LEWIS, NOW EMPLOYED AS A BAGGAGE CLERK, SAID HE MET OSWALD CASUALLY AND NOT AS A RESULT OF ANY INVESTIGATIVE WORK.

"KNOWING THE PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED, I WOULD SAY, YES, THERE WAS DEFINITELY A CONSPIRACY BECAUSE THEY ARE THE TYPE WHO WOULD DO THIS," LEWIS SAID.

HE SAID, SINCE DISCLOSING HIS PART IN TALKING TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, HE IS CONCERNED FOR HIS WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN.

LEWIS SAID HE IS "ALMOST POSITIVE THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER PERSONS WHO HAVE SUBSTANTIATED MY EVIDENCE."

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