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**U R G E N T**

**FERRIE 3RD NL (200)**

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**NEW ORLEANS, FEB. 22 (AP)--DAVID W. FERRIE, AN IMPORTANT AND STRANGE FIGURE IN DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, WAS FOUND DEAD IN BED TODAY. GARRISON SAID HE HAD PLANNED TO ARREST FERRIE NEXT WEEK.**

**"THE APPARENT SUICIDE OF DAVID FERRIE ENDS THE LIFE OF A MAN WHO, IN MY JUDGMENT, WAS ONE OF HISTORY'S MOST IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS," GARRISON TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE.**

**CORONER NICHOLAS CHETTA SAID FERRIE'S DEATH WAS DUE TO A RUPTURED BLOOD VESSEL IN THE BRAIN, BUT THAT FURTHER TESTS WERE BEING MADE.**

**THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S STATEMENT WAS ISSUED AT HIS OFFICE AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME THAT THE CORONER WAS TALKING TO NEWSMEN AT THE MORGUE.**

**GARRISON SAID FERRIE, A PILOT, HAD BEEN UNDER CONTINUAL OBSERVATION AND HIS INFORMATION "HAD CAUSED US TO BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED...ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS KILLING HIMSELF.**

**"EVIDENCE DEVELOPED BY OUR OFFICE HAD LONG SINCE CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN EVENTS CULMINATING IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.**

**"BECAUSE OF THIS, AT A MEETING AT MY HOUSE THIS MORNING, WE HAD REACHED A DECISION TO ARREST HIM EARLY NEXT WEEK. APPARENTLY WE WAITED TOO LONG."**

**DR. CHETTA SAID A NOTE WAS FOUND IN THE DINING ROOM OF FERRIE'S CLUTTERED APARTMENT WHICH SAID, IN PART:**

**"TO LEAVE THIS LIFE ISS, FOR ME, A SWEET PROSPECT. I FIND NOTHING IN IT THAT IS DESIRABLE AND ON THE OTHER HAND EVERYTHING THAT IS LOATHSOME."**

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**THE CORONER SAID FERRIE, ABOUT 45, WAS BORN WITH A WEAKNESS OF ONE BLOOD VESSEL AT THE BASE OF THE BRAIN. WHEN THIS RUPTURED, IT CAUSED MASSIVE HEMMORRHAGE, HE ADDED.**

HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE NOTE, A FULL AUTOPSY WAS ORDERED TO CHECK THE POSSIBILITY OF SUICIDE. THE BODY WAS FOUND NUDE, WITH A SHEET PULLED UP TO THE CHEST.

FERRIE HAD TOLD FRIENDS HE WAS SUFFERING FROM ENCEPHALITIS (SLEEPING SICKNESS). DR. CHETTA SAID HE HAD HYPERTENSIVE CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE--HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE.

NO DRUGS WERE FOUND IN THE APARTMENT EXCEPT PILLS FOR TREATMENT OF VASCULAR TROUBLE, DR. CHETTA SAID. HE ADDED THAT STRESS COULD HAVE CAUSED THE BLOOD VESSEL TO "BLOW."

FERRIE WAS ARRESTED HERE FOR QUESTIONING WITHIN 72 HOURS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, WHEN HE RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO TEXAS. AN INFORMANT HAD LINKED HIM TO LEE HARVEY OSWALD, NAMED AS THE ASSASSIN.

"WE THOUGHT IT PECULIAR THAT A MAN WOULD UNDERTAKE A TRIP TO SOUTH TEXAS WHEN EVERYONE ELSE WAS WATCHING TELEVISION," SAID GARRISON.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT THE DEATH OF FERRIE TO IMPEDE HIS INVESTIGATION, WHICH CONTINUES.

GARRISON TOLD NEWSMEN THE "PRIMARY REASON FOR THE PLANNED ARREST OF FERRIE WAS BECAUSE WE FELT WE HAD REACHED A POINT WHERE WE HAD ENOUGH INFORMATION TO MOVE."

FERRIE BECAME "INCREASINGLY MORE AND MORE NERVOUS AS THE INVESTIGATION PROGRESSED," SAID GARRISON.

"ALTHOUGH MY OFFICE HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING FERRIE INTENSIVELY FOR MONTHS, WE HAVE NOT MENTIONED HIS NAME PUBLICLY UP TO THIS POINT," GARRISON ADDED. "THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THIS CASE NOW LEAVES ME NO OTHER COURSE OF ACTION."

ASKED IF HE HAD ANY REASON TO BELIEVE ANYBODY BUT LEE HARVEY OSWALD TOOK PART IN THE ACTUAL ASSASSINATION, GARRISON REPLIED:

"I HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE AT THIS POINT THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD KILLED ANYBODY IN DALLAS ON THAT DAY."

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FERRIE, WHO DID PRIVATE INVESTIGATING AND LISTED HIMSELF AS A PSYCHOLOGIST, HAD COMPLAINED THAT GARRISON HAD HIM "PEGGED AS THE GET-WAY PILOT IN AN ELABORATE PLOT TO KILL KENNEDY." HE CALLED IT A ZBIG JOKE."

THE NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY, IN AN INVESTIGATION THAT STARTED LAST OCTOBER, HAS BEEN TRYING TO PROVE THAT A CONSPIRACY WAS HATCHED HERE THAT "CULMINATED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY" IN DALLAS, TEX., NOV. 22, 1963.

GARRISON PROMISED ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS, BUT KEPT DETAILS SECRET.

THE PROBE HAS STIRRED AN INTERNATIONAL FUROR BECAUSE IT BACKED UP CRITICS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION, WHO CLAIM THAT THE ASSASSINATION

OF THE PRESIDENT COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF JUST ONE MAN.

THE OFFICIAL COMMISSION REPORT SAID LEE HARVEY OSWALD SHOT KENNEDY-- AND THERE WAS NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE TO SHOW ANYONE ELSE WAS IMPLICATED.

FERRIE WAS INTERROGATED BY GARRISON'S OFFICE LAST NOVEMBER FOR THE SECOND TIME IN CONNECTION WITH THE ASSASSINATION. THE FIRST WAS IN 1963.

"WE ARRESTED FERRIE 72 HOURS AFTER JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED," SAID GARRISON. "THE ARREST WAS ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED OUT OF THIS OFFICE. I TURNED FERRIE OVER TO THE FBI ON NOV. 25, 1963. AS A MATTER OF RECORD AT THAT TIME, WE SUGGESTED THE FBI TAKE A DETAILED STATEMENT."

GARRISON SAID HE HAD NEVER SEEN A COPY OF THE FBI INTERROGATION.

"THERE ARE 40 PAGES RELATING TO THE INTERROGATION AND REPORT ON FERRIE WHICH ARE IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN WASHINGTON," HE SAID. "ONLY FOUR OF THESE PAGES ARE UNCLASSIFIED."

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FERRIE REPEATEDLY DENIED THAT HE EVER KNEW OSWALD, A FORMER NEW ORLEANS RESIDENT.

FERRIE SAID HE AND TWO COMPANIONS WENT TO TEXAS FROM NEW ORLEANS THE AFTERNOON OF THE ASSASSINATION. HE INSISTED IT WAS A PLEASURE TRIP.

"WE WENT TO HOUSTON, GALVESTON AND BACK TO ALEXANDRIA, LA.," HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE HAD GIVEN A "METICULOUS" ACCOUNT OF THE TRIP DURING THE FIRST INTERROGATION.

FERRIE SAID IT WAS FRUITLESS TO SEARCH FOR AN ACCOMPLICE TO OSWALD BECAUSE "MY ASSESSMENT OF OSWALD IS THAT HE WOULD BE INCAPABLE OF ANY INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP, ESPECIALLY ANYTHING AS DELICATE AS A CONSPIRACY TO KILL."

A POLICE OFFICER OUTSIDE FERRIE'S APARTMENT, SHORTLY AFTER OFFICERS ARRIVED TODAY TO TAKE AWAY THE NUDE BODY, POINTED TO A BLOND YOUTH WITH LONG SIDEBURNS AND SAID, "HE FOUND HIM."

THE YOUTH WAS HUSTLED AWAY BY POLICE. BEFORE HE LEFT, HE TOLD A NEWSMAN HE DIDN'T FIND THE BODY, DIDN'T KNOW FERRIE AND "JUST HAPPENED TO WANDER IN."

FERRIE WAS AN ODD LOOKING FIGURE. AN EXPLOSION SEVERAL YEARS AGO COST HIM HIS HAIR AND EYEBROWS YEARS AGO. HE WORE A SHAGGY TOUPEE AND MASCARA EYEBROWS.

POLICE RECORDS SHOWED HE WAS FIRED AS AN AIRLINE PILOT AFTER BEING ARRESTED IN JEFFERSON PARISH (COUNTY), WHICH ADJOINS NEW ORLEANS, ON A MORALS CHARGE. THE CASE NEVER WENT TO TRIAL.

GARRISON SAID HIS INVESTIGATION HAS UNEARTHED EVIDENCE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE WARREN COMMISSION. HE WOULD NOT ELABORATE.

FERRIE, A NATIVE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO., HAS LIVED IN NEW ORLEANS THE PAST 15 YEARS.

OSWALD LIVED IN NEW ORLEANS DURING THE SUMMER OF 1963.

FERRIE SAID THE FBI FIRST BECAME INTERESTED IN HIM WHEN A NEW ORLEANS MAN IDENTIFIED AS ED VOBLE REPORTED HE SERVED WITH OSWALD IN A CIVIL AIR PATROL UNIT UNDER FERRIE.

FERRIE SAID VOBLE WAS IN THE MOISANT SQUADRON AND "I WAS IN THE LAKEFRONT SQUADRON."  
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IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WARREN COMMISSION, FREDERICK O'SULLIVAN, A NEW ORLEANS VICE SQUAD DETECTIVE IN 1964, SAID OSWALD HAD BRIEFLY JOINED A CIVIL AIR PATROL UNIT HERE. O'SULLIVAN SAID HE WAS NOT SURE OSWALD WAS ASSOCIATED WITH OR KNEW FERRIE THROUGH THE CAP.

O'SULLIVAN SAID HE AND ANOTHER POLICE OFFICER CHECKED FERRIE'S AIRPLANE "TO SEE IF IT WAS FLYABLE, TO SEE POSSIBLY WHETHER HE HAD BEEN FLYING IT LATELY WITH THE THOUGHT THAT HE MAY HAVE TRANSPORTED OSWALD TO DALLAS...

"WE FOUND HIS PLANE, BUT HIS PLANE WAS NOT IN FLYABLE CONDITION IN THAT IT HAD FLAT TIRES, INSTRUMENTS MISSING, NEEDED A PAINT JOB," HE SAID.

O'SULLIVAN SAID A CHECK OF AIRCRAFT FIRMS DISCLOSED FERRIE HAD NOT RENTED A PLANE.

TOLD THAT HIS CONNECTION WITH THE GARRISON INVESTIGATION WOULD MAKE HIM A NATIONAL CELEBRITY, FERRIE REPLIED:

"WHAT WILL BEING A NATIONAL CELEBRITY GET ME? THIRTY-FIVE CENTS AND BEING A NATIONAL CELEBRITY WILL GET YOU A HAMBURGER. I WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE TO MY FLYING."

FERRIE RAN A PRIVATE FLYING SERVICE FROM A COFFEE SHOP AT NEW ORLEANS LAKEFRONT AIRPORT.

"HE WAS ALWAYS VERY NICE AND NEVER GOT OUT OF LINE," A WAITRESS WHO DECLINED TO GIVE HER NAME RECALLED TODAY. "HE WAS INTELLIGENT AND REAL SERIOUS ABOUT FLYING, BECAUSE THAT'S ALL HE EVER TALKED ABOUT."

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GARRISON SAID HE IS CONFIDENT HIS INVESTIGATION WILL PROVE PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION WAS THE CULMINATION OF A CONSPIRACY IN NEW ORLEANS.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY BEGAN HIS PROBE IN SECRET LAST OCTOBER. THE NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM REVEALED THE INVESTIGATION FRIDAY, AN ACTION GARRISON DENOUNCED AS A SERIOUS HINDRANCE TO HIS WORK.

GARRISON SAID SATURDAY HE EXPECTS TO ARREST AT LEAST FIVE PERSONS, THOUGH THE ARRESTS "ARE MOST CERTAINLY MONTHS AWAY."

FERRIE TOLD THE STATES-ITEM THAT WHILE HE WAS IN TEXAS IN 1963, HIS HOME WAS ENTERED BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S INVESTIGATORS WHO CARTED OFF BOOKS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

FERRIE SAID HE HEARD NOTHING MORE ABOUT THE MATTER UNTIL LAST NOVEMBER WHEN HE WAS SUMMONED TO GARRISON'S OFFICE. HE SAID CHIEF INVESTIGATOR LOUIS IVON TOLD HIM GARRISON HAD "POSITIVELY UNCOVERED A PLOT IN NEW ORLEANS TO ASSASSINATE KENNEDY."

HE SAID HE WAS RELEASED AND NOT CONTACTED AGAIN.

IT WAS LEARNED, HOWEVER, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LATER HAD TWO MEN MAINTAINING SURVEILLANCE OF HIS APARTMENT.

IN FORT WORTH, TEX., MRS. MARGUERITE OSWALD, MOTHER OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, SAID: "I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AMAZED THAT THE MAN (FERRIE) WAS ARRESTED AND QUESTIONED, BUT NOT INTERVIEWED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION. HE IS NOT LISTED IN THE WARREN REPORT AS TESTIFYING IN PERSON BEFORE THE COMMISSION MEMBERS..."

"I'M SHOCKED AND DISMAYED THAT ANOTHER LIFE MAY HAVE BEEN FORFEITED FOR LACK OF A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION."

IN AN ODD SIDELINE DEVELOPMENT, AUTHORITIES IN PENSACOLA, FLA., WERE ASKED TODAY TO EXHUME THE BODY OF THOMAS H. KILLAM--WHO WAS MARRIED TO A STRIPPER IN JACK RUBY'S NIGHTCLUB, AND WHO ALSO WORKED AS A HOUSE PAINTER WITH A ~~FORMER OSWALD ROOMMATE~~. *man who once lived in the same boarding house with Oswald.*

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EARL KILLAM, THE DEAD MAN'S BROTHER, SAID HE WANTED A SPECIAL EXAMINATION MADE TO DETERMINE THE EXACT CAUSE OF DEATH.

THOMAS KILLAM WAS FOUND DEAD AMID SHATTERED WINDOW GLASS ON A DOWNTOWN PENSACOLA STREET MARCH 17, 1964. POLICE LISTED IT AS PROBABLE SUICIDE, THE PENSACOLA NEWS-JOURNAL SAID.

EARL KILLAM SAID HIS BROTHER TOLD HIM THAT "AGENTS" AND "PLOTTERS" VISITED HIM REPEATEDLY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, WHEN HE WAS LIVING IN DALLAS WHILE HIS WIFE WORKED AT RUBY'S NIGHTCLUB.

RUBY, WHO DIED OF CANCER RECENTLY, KILLED OSWALD IN A SHOOTING BEFORE TELEVISION CAMERAS IN DALLAS.

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