

Private Money for The 'Plot' Probe

New Orleans

A group of wealthy businessmen belonging to a club called "Truth of Consequences" yesterday staked a large undisclosed sum of money on District Attorney Jim Garrison and his controversial investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

The group, whose motto is "let the chips fall where they may," refused to state how much money they gave Garrison but emphasized, "We have faith in his integrity."

Garrison, whose investigation of the assassination has resulted in a storm of controversy, said yesterday that he could arrest persons connected with the plot now if he chose, "and make 'em stick." But later he hedged, as he has on several other points, and said arrests may not come for several months.

SUICIDES

Garrison also predicted there would be "more suicides" committed by persons allegedly involved with a plot hatched in New Orleans, and that he has "solved" the assassination "beyond a shadow of a doubt."

"We solved it weeks ago," he said. "There remains only the details of evidence and there is no question about it. We have the names of everyone. We have all the details."

The district attorney's startling pronouncements came in two impromptu news conferences held when he entered and left a closed meeting of the businessmen who have offered him the money to aid his three-month old probe.

REASON

The businessmen said they offered the money because Garrison had said previously he was low on funds and wanted private funds to avoid letting newsmen check public records which would be available if he spent public money.

Garrison also said he had "borrowed" \$2500 some 70 hours after his investigation was disclosed in local newspapers last week.

Three local businessmen, Cecil Shilstone, Willard Robertson and Joe Rault, said the club was placing a large undisclosed amount of cash at Garrison's disposal.

CONFERENCES

In the five appearances he has made before newsmen since Monday, Garrison has repeatedly stated each appearance would be the last but each succeeding day he has either issued another statement, or held an impromptu or announced news conference.

Garrison continued to insist that David William Ferrie, a pilot and principal figure in his investigation who was found dead Wednesday, had committed suicide.

This conflicted with Coroner Nicholas Chetta, who has said several times that indications were that Ferrie died a natural death. Chetta said yesterday that chemical tests concluded so far indicate Ferrie died a natural death, that no foreign substances or poisons were found in the body. Homicide Lieutenant Cornelius Drumm said his investigation of Ferrie's death had turned up no signs of foul play.

STATEMENT

Garrison said yesterday "there is no doubt that the entire thing (the alleged plot to kill Mr. Kennedy) was planned in New Orleans."

Garrison said one reason he cannot make arrests now is that he must prove in court "beyond a reasonable doubt" of the guilt of the alleged conspirators.

"All that remains is working out the details," he said, and added "we will arrest these people — at least all of them who are alive when we get to them."

Times-Post Service