### NATIONAL AFFAIRS

recommends rehabilitation and the Secretary of the Army accepts its finding, the American Legion plans to have the body taken to Montana and reburied with all military honors in the national cemetery at the site of Custer's Last Stand. There, at long last, Maj. Marcus Reno would join forces with the fabled men of the old Seventh Cavalry.

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE:**

## Northern Hospitality

Sojourner George C. Wallace flew north once again last week, this time to New England, and after bouncing off his chartered Convair at Concord, N.H., the Presidential hopeful said he was still un-decided whether to try his luck in the state's primary. For the moment, the assistant governor of Alabama insisted he Hampshire mainly "to pit our ear to the ground." As it turned out, the little exgovernor got an earful.

Screaming, hissing, stomping and cursing, hecklers at Dartmouth College ing, hecklers at Dartmouth College stirred up one of the nastiest protests that Wallace has yet encountered on his northern forays—more bitter by far than the demonstration he met a week earlier in Syracuse (Newsweek, May 8), and more unruly, said Dartmouth observers, than any disorder on that usually staid

campus in the last generation.

Virtual pander onium broke out in Dartmouth College auditorium as soon as Wallace-the invited guest of The Daily Dartmouth editors—took his place behind the podium. Sarcastic banners waved wildly ("George, can you walk on water too?"), and students-led by members of the Afro-American Society-set up an incessant rumbing chant: "Wallace is a racist . . . Wallace is a racist." Wallace tried to speak during the lulls. But nearly everything he said drew gibes.

Hustled Off: The demonstration

near-riotous reached a near-riotous peak when roughly a core of sign-bearing protesters marched menacingly down the aisle to-ward the stage-heralded by a voice yelling from the balcony: "They're coming to lynch you, Wallace!" The group was intercepted by university cops while Wallace was hustled off the stage by his wn bodyguards.

Later, outside, hundreds of students

surrounded Wallace's car, rocked it and dented the roof. With Wallace trapped inside, it took the police half an hour to clear a path for the automobile through a milling throng of 2,000.

artmouth officials could have been more embarrassed. Dean Tladdeus Seymour immediately wired a ologies. Wallace himself wrote off the Dartmouth experience with a wry re-Partmouth experience with a wry re-nark. "Academic freedom like that," he said, "can get you killed."



District Attorney Garrison: Who were the real plotters in New Orleans?

# THE JFK 'CONSPIRACY'

What lies behind New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's increasingly notorious investigation of a "plot" to kill John F. Kennedy? To find out, News-WEEK sent a veteran reporter, who covered the assassination and its aftermath, to New Orleans for five weeks. His account follows.

#### by Hugh Aynesworth

im Garrison is right. There has been a conspiracy in New Orleans-but it is a plot of Garrison's own making. It is a scheme to concoct a fantastic "solution" to the death of John F. Kennedy, and to make it stick; in this cause, the district attorney and his staff have been indirect parties to the death of one man and have humiliated, harassed and financially gutted several others.

Indeed, Garrison's tactics have been even more questionable than his case. I have evidence that one of the strapping D.A.'s investigators offered an unwilling "witness" \$3,000 and a job with an air-line-if only he would "fill in the facts" of 'witness" an alleged meeting to plot the death of the President. I also know that when the D.A.'s office learned that this entire bribery attempt had been tape-recorded, two of Garrison's men returned to the 'witness" and, he says, threatened him with physical harm.

Another man who spent many hours with District Attorney Garrison in a vain attempt to dissuade him from his assassination-conspiracy theory has twice been threatened—once by one of the D.A.'s own "witnesses," the second time by Garrison himself. Others—Cuban exiles, convicts, drug addicts, homosexuals,

bums-have been hounded in more subtle ways. For most of Garrison's victims are extremely vulnerable men. Some are already paying for their vulnerability. Chief among them is Clay L. Shaw, the New Orleans businessman-socialite, who now faces trial on a charge of conspiring to kill the President.

How did it all begin?

Garrison first became earnestly interested in the Kennedy assassination when he and Louisiana Sen. Russell Long rode side by side on an airplane bound for New York. Long said he had never actually believed the Warren commission report, that he still had doubts. Garrison later told me that he immediately decided that if such an important man thought there was something odd about the case, it was time to start digging.

Cleanup: Garrison is known in New Orleans as a smart operator, a bit un-orthodox, but nobody's fool. He made his name by cleaning up his old haunt-the French Quarter-and putting a temporary halt to B-girl practices and lewd dancing in its gaudy strip joints. Later, he amazed the whole city by accusing eight criminal judges of taking too many days off and of winking at Mafia activity. But although the judges sued him for libel, Garrison's right to criticize the judiciary was finally upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. Thus, when he first announced his "conspiracy" case, most New Orleanians believed that "Big Jim must have something."

What Garrison had to start with was a colorfully pathetic "suspect" named David Ferrie. A onetime airline pilot, Ferrie had been questioned shortly after the

assassination on the basis of a tip that he was Oswald's "getaway pilot." But the tipster was an alcoholic who later admitted that he had made up the story.

Despite his clean bill of health from the FBI and Secret Service, Ferrie betion. He was questioned for hours, "tailed" and subjected tests. His acquaintances were quizzed. By February, word had leaked out of Garrison's office that Ferrie was soon to be arrested and charged with the con-spiracy of conspiracies. Through it all Ferrie called the D.A.'s investigation a "farce" and told friends he would sue Garrison if he were arrested. But as the weeks wore on, Ferrie, not a strong or stable man under the best of circumstances, began to show the strain. Then, suddenly on Feb. 22, he died-of a massive cerebral hemorrhage.

Suicide: Garrison crowed that Ferrie's death was "an apparent suicide" and he warned that same week: "We know who the rest of them are. The only way they are going to get away from us is to kill themselves." A week after Ferrie's death, home, "Yeah, we helped kill the son of a bitch." Garrison ruefully admitted to me in his

Shortly after Ferrie's fortuitous death, Garrison proclaimed that he had "solved" the President's assassination; that he knew the individuals involved, the cities and other details of the "plot." Arrests would be forthcoming, and convictions too. "Don't bet against us," the district

attorney warned.

Two days later, a crucial "witness" miraculously appeared. Perry Raymond Russo, a 25-year-old insurance salesman from nearby Baton Rouge, claimed that he had known David Ferrie well and that Ferrie had once said President Kennedy should have been killed for his bungling of the Bay of Pigs disaster. Garrison assigned former boxer Andrew J. Sciambra, 31, one year out of law school, to interview Russo. After his first conversation with Russo, Sciambra filed a 3,500-word memo in which he failed to mention anything about an assassination plot.

Ideal Witness: But later, after being given "truth serum" (sodium pentothal) and being prompted, Russo testified at length in a pretrial hearing about a key "conspiracy" meeting held in Ferrie's apartment which also supposedly involved Clay Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald. Russo seemed to be the ideal witness. He was cool, calm—"almost as if he was hypnotized," said one attorney. Lo and behold, the defense later discovered that Russo had been hypnotized —just hours before he testified. Russo told the court he had stood around in the apartment and listened while Ferrie, Oswald and Shaw hatched their "plot." He could recall phrases like "availability

of exits," "diversionary tactics," and "tri-angulation of cross fire." Russo offered a variety of unconvincing reasons why he had never mentioned the meeting to anyone before.

Garrison produced another unusual "witness" at the hearing, a 27-year-old Negro drug addict. Vernon Bundy said that while sitting on the lakefront one morning waiting to "pop" a cap of heroin he looked up and saw Oswald being handed a wad of money by Shaw. Bundy admitted he had a four-cap-a-day habit at that time and had been on drugs since the age of 13. One defense attorney asked Bundy how he could support such a demanding heroin habit when the cost would be nearly twice his salary

Shaw: A price for vulnerability

each week. "I steal sometimes," Bundy replied.

After the three judges on the hearing panel agreed that the Russo and Bundy testimony was enough "evidence" to bind Shaw over for trial, one judge told a friend at the racetrack that although Garrison really didn't have enough to bind the defendant over, he and his fellow judges had been fascinated by how well Russo stuck to his story for two days. Many hypnotists probably were not so impressed.

Garrison did not stop with Russo and Bundy. His men tried to get another "witness" to shore up his conspiracy charge. In fact, they tried about \$3,000 worth.

Less than a week before Shaw's pre-trial hearing, two investigators from Garrison's office visited an unemployed young man named Alvin Beaubouef at his New Orleans home. They told the 21-year-old they had "influence" and could help Beaubouef get a job with an airline if only he would help them substantiate the alleged plot. Beaubouef told them he couldn't do anything without talking to his attorney. They made a date for 2:30 the next afternoon at the

lawyer's office.
'Just Like That': One of the two investigators, Lynn Loisel, a New Orleans policeman assigned to Garrison's office, showed up. What had Loisel told Beaubouef the night before, the attorney asked? "I told him we had liberal expense money," Loisel replied. "And I said the boss is in a position to put him in a job, also that he would make a hero out of him, instead of a villain, you understand ... I mean we can change the story around, you know, to positively, beyond a shadow of a doubt ... You know, eliminate him, you know, into any kind of a conspiracy or what have you. The attorney wanted to know more about the offer of money. Loisel answered: "I would venture to say ... Well, I'm, you know ... fairly certain we could put \$3,000 on him." He snapped his fingers. 'Just like that, you know.

Loisel was asked about the promise of a job. "I don't know," the burly cop said. "I'm sure he would have to go up through the ranks, you know. The first year or two he might stay in a room in the back with the charts or something ... I don't know. Then he advances a little farther. Then he's a co-pilot ... Then he's a pilot." Beaubouer's lawyer asked if this was Garrison's idea, if "the boss" meant Jim Garrison? Loisel replied that it did. Then Loisel laid out the "conspiracy

plot" to which Beaubouef presumably would testify. He discussed "cross fire" and escape routes. As Loisel "recalled" it, Ferrie and Shaw had been arguing in the apartment-or maybe it had been Oswald and Shaw-the investigator couldn't quite recall for sure. Loisel add-"Clay Shaw wanted some of his methods used, or his thoughts, you know, used. But anyway, that's what we have in

mind-along that line."
Suggestion: "Was Al at the meeting?" the attorney asked. Loisel said: "No, Al wasn't at the meeting." But Loisel suggested that Dave Ferrie had told Beau-bouef all about it. The attorney then asked how they would explain Beaubouef's failure to come forward prior to this. "I'll tell you how we go about that problem," said Loisel. "Well, Dave Ferrie, bless his soul, is gone. Al was scared of Dave. Al has a family, you know. When Al first met Dave, he was a single man. Al has a family now. Al was threatened by Dave, you know, to never divulge this. Al or his family would be taken care of. You understand. Now that poor Dave is gone, Al has voluntarily come forth and told of his knowledge. I mean there's 99,999 ways we can skin that cat, you know. I mean, it's something, you know