

Garrison Probe Called 'Lies, Threats and Fear'

NEW YORK — (UPI) — New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination was described on nationwide TV last night as a case founded on lies, threats, fear and suspicion.

Before the NBC documentary went on the air, Garrison characterized the program as "the big lie."

"All the screaming and hollering is evidence that we have caught a very large fish," he added.

ACCUSATION

Garrison has charged Clay L. Shaw, a New Orleans businessman, took part in a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.

He said Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby, the late David W. Ferrie and unnamed Cubans participated in the alleged plot.

Shaw has been indicted for conspiracy.

The NBC program presented the following conclusions:

- "The case he (Garrison) has built against Shaw is based on testimony that did not pass a lie test Garrison ordered — and Garrison knew it. One prospective witness admitted he was going to lie.

- "Members of Garrison's staff, in trying to strengthen the case against Shaw, have threatened and offered inducements to potential witnesses.

- "The results of his four months of public investigation have been to damage reputations, to spread fear and suspicion and, worst of all, to exploit the nation's sorrow and doubts about Kennedy's death."

After the program, Garrison said he would ask NBC for equal time to reply to the network's statements.

Perry Russo, one of Garrison's key witnesses against Shaw, has identified Shaw as the mysterious "Clay Bertrand," alleged to have taken part in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

However, the documentary said:

"Clay, or Clem Bertrand, does exist. An NBC reporter

Dwight Newton's comment on the presentation.—Page 15.

has seen him. Clem Bertrand is not his real name. It is a pseudonym used by homosexuals in New Orleans . . . He is not Clay Shaw."

NAME GIVEN TO FBI

NBC said it would not disclose the real name of "Clem Bertrand" for his own protection, but added:

"His name has been given to the FBI."

As for Russo, NBC correspondent Walter Sheridan said Russo told him his testimony against Shaw may be a "combination of truth, fantasy and lies."

"He said he wishes he had never gotten into this, but now he feels he has no choice but to go through with it," Sheridan said.

Five people alleged they were offered inducements,

\$2500 OFFER

Fred Leemans, who once ran a Turkish bath in New Orleans, said Garrison's agents offered him \$2500 if he could remember Shaw used the name Clay Bertrand and

was accompanied to the bath by someone named Lee.

Leemans said he decided not to give the false testimony.

Sandra Moffitt said she was offered clothing if she would return to New Orleans from Iowa to testify.

Alvin Beauboeuf said he was offered \$3000 and a job if he testified, and threatened with public exposure as a homosexual if he didn't.

Two convicted burglars, Miguel Torres and John Cancler, said they were offered concessions, including reductions in jail sentences for false testimony — Torres to say Shaw also was Clay Bertrand and that Shaw was a homosexual, and Cancler to break into Shaw's house to "plant something in there."