

New Orleans probe asked



Garrison target of citizens

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans called today for an exhaustive state investigation of the manner in which Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison has conducted his Kennedy assassination probe.

If the statements made on a National Broadcasting Co. television program Monday night are true, the commission said,

“the people of New Orleans are without basis for confidence that the laws of this state will be applied so as to convict the guilty and exonerate the innocent.”

“On the contrary, there is reason for fear that anyone may be charged and prosecuted based upon contrived false evidence.”

PROBE URGED

The commission urged Louisiana Atty. Gen. Jack Gremillion in a letter to name a special, select committee of lawyers “to conduct a full investigation, and, if the evidence justifies, to prosecute any persons believed to have committed crimes against the people.”

Neither Garrison nor Gremillion were available for comment on the commission's letter.

The commission is a citizens group financed by voluntary private contributions.

The commission said in its letter to Gremillion that NBC alleged through various persons that Garrison's probe included a series of attempts “to induce persons to give false testimony and/or to withhold pertinent facts, under promise of reward or threat of recrimination.”

JUDGE'S WARNING

The commission's letter followed a warning by a criminal court judge here that he intends to issue some contempt of court citations once Garrison's

case against Clay L. Shaw has been tried by a jury.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty announced Wednesday that his pretrial guidelines imposed on the case have been violated — and that the violators “acted at their peril.”

The judge didn't name anyone.

Guidelines imposed by Haggerty in the case involving Shaw, a wealthy retired businessman charged with conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in Dallas in 1963, forbids persons connected with the case to make public statements about innocence, guilt or evidence.

GARRISON QUOTED

In Nashville, Tenn., the Tennessean quoted Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, in a copyright story, as saying Kennedy was assassinated by a 14-man team of Cuban guerrillas who trained secretly in St. Tammany Parish (County) near New Orleans during the summer of 1963.

The newspaper said Garrison believes the alleged assassins were anti-Castro refugees, brought to New Orleans from Miami, Fla., to prepare for an assault on Cuba.

Garrison theorized that the Cubans “turned their wrath on President Kennedy when it became apparent that the United States would not support isolated assaults on Cuba,” the Tennessean said.



JIM GARRISON