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Investigation of Garrison by Louisiana Is Urged

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NEW ORLEANS, June 22—The Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans called today for an investigation of the operations of District Attorney Jim Garrison.

The commission asked State Attorney General Jack Gremlion to request the deans of law schools in Louisiana and the heads of bar associations and civic groups to select three investigators for the project.

In an eight-page letter to the Attorney General, the crime commission said it had been contended that Mr. Garrison's investigation into the alleged conspiracy to kill President Kennedy "has included a series of attempts, by Garrison and members of his staff, to induce persons to give false testimony and/or to withhold pertinent facts, under promise of reward or threat of recrimination."

Garrison Critical

As a result, the commission said, "We believe we express the reaction of all objective observers when we state it is now imperative that an official, impartial, fact-finding procedure be established to immediately and exhaustively examine all allegations made against the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office."

Mr. Gremlion was reported by his office to be "somewhere in northern Louisiana," and

could not be reached for comment. Mr. Garrison immediately challenged Aaron M. Kohn, managing director of the crime commission, to place his charges before the Orleans Parish (country) grand jury.

Mr. Garrison said he would ask the jury foreman to call Mr. Kohn, who along with E. C. Upton Jr., crime commission president, signed the letter to Mr. Gremlion.

Mr. Garrison said, "Naturally I feel sorry for Mr. Kohn. The watchdog of the community has been sniffing at so many bad fire hydrants that his nose has finally gone bad on him."

The crime commission is a nonprofit citizen corporation organized under the laws of Louisiana to conduct research and investigation into the administration of law enforcement and criminal justice as they affect the metropolitan New Orleans area. It is financed entirely by voluntary contributions of business, industry and private citizens and has no government authority.

The crime commission's letter cited allegations made by several persons during the National Broadcasting Company's documentary "The J.F.K. Conspiracy; The Case of Jim Garrison" last Monday in which they were "pressured by Garrison's office to give false testimony."

"Implications of the allegations made against Garrison

and his staff now reach far beyond the assassination probe," said the crime commission. "They raise justifiable doubts about handling by that office of the hundreds of cases each year in which persons are charged with crimes against the state."

Impartiality Urged

"If accusations broadcast throughout the nation on Monday night are true, 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 and anyone may be charged and prosecuted based upon contrived false evidence."

"The commission said, "because of the clouds of doubt and suspicions which have been cast upon this entire process, during which statements of Mr. Garrison and others imply political motives to action and counteraction, any fact-finding process must carry with it public reassurance of impartiality to be believable."

"The Louisiana State Constitution authorizes the Attorney General to intervene for the assertion or protection of the rights and interest of the state. We believe the rights and interest of the people of Louisiana now make it imperative that the office of the Attorney General to intervene for this matter."

The commission recommended that the investigators prosecute any persons that their inquiry showed had committed crimes.

Mr. Garrison contends that a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy originated in New Orleans. Clay Shaw, 54-year-old retired businessman, has been bound over for trial after a preliminary hearing, at which Mr. Garrison alleged that Mr. Shaw, the late Lee Harvey Oswald, and the late David W. Ferrie had plotted to shoot Mr. Kennedy. The Warren Commission named Oswald as the lone killer.

Mr. Shaw is free on \$10,000 bond. Mr. Ferrie, a one-time airline pilot, was found dead in his apartment here five days after the Garrison investigation became public knowledge. The coroner ruled that Mr. Ferrie died of natural causes.