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GURVICH PERSONALITY BJT 450, WIREPHOTO NU2

By BEN THOMAS

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NEW ORLEANS AP - Mild-mannered William Gurchich shuns the tough guy image of a private detective. But he has become tough in his insistence that Dist. Atty. J. Garrison abandon his investigation of President Kennedy's assassination.

"I don't care to exploit the incident that occurred in 1963 over in Texas," says Gurchich.

The handsome, gray-haired Gurchich goes before the Orleans Parish grand jury Wednesday "to tell everything I know and everything I tell them can be proven."

The truth, Gurchich says, "is that Garrison has no case."

Until recently the 42-year-old investigator has been a close confidant of Garrison, who began his inquiry into the Dallas, Tex., assassination of President Kennedy.

Although Garrison now claims Gurchich had only a minor part in the probe, Gurchich was—until his defection—the chief investigator for the district attorney. Gurchich admits he technically did not have such a title but in fact was chief investigator.

Investigative work has been Gurchich's way of life since he was a small child. His father, an ex-FBI agent, opened a detective agency and patrol service here 37 years ago.

The Gurchich family business today. The elder Gurchich died during World War II when William was in the service.

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"He's a good dresser, articulate and debonair . . . with a certain kind of class you don't find in most cops."

Gurchich says his work is a far cry from the sleuthing shown on the movie and television screens. "Lots of unglamorous and downright dull research and investigative work," is the way he puts it.

"You don't always see the bright side of life," he added.

"Sometimes children are involved and narcotics or immorality may play a part."

Gurchich, says Dempsey, "is a good, thorough investigator who will expend a lot of time and effort on a case. He won't seek the easy way out."

Dempsey says he's puzzled by Gurchich's claims that he has thought Garrison was off base with his investigation since January. The reporter said Gurchich, both on and off the record, had claimed earlier the probe was on "very solid ground."

Gurchich's relations with the New Orleans Police Department are good. "He's worked with us on a number of cases," said Police Capt. Marvin Leonard. "He really risked his life one time. He's dapper, clean cut and a fine gentleman."

Gurchich taught himself fingerprinting and is now considered an expert. He's also self-taught in photographic work and "bugging"—the use of electronic and radio devices to gain information.

Gurchich and his wife Billie, whom he married six years ago, live in a large house in suburban Metairie. "Between us we have six children, all at home," explains Mrs. Gurchich.

She said her husband has two sons, 17 and 14, from a former marriage, she has three children, also from an earlier marriage, and "our own 3-year-old baby."

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