The 'Plot' Prober

'Robert Kennedy Obstructing Me'

New York

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison said yesterday Senator Robert F. Kennedy (Dem-N.Y.) has made "very positive efforts" to obstruct his investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"It is quite apparent to me that for one reason or another he does not want the truth to be brought out," Garrison said in an interview. "Perhaps he can explain better than I can why his political career is so important."

Garrison charged that the New York Senator "has done everything he could to obstruct the investigation and to have to conclude that he feels the development of truth about the assassination, catching the real assassins of Jack Kennedy, would interfere with his political career."

"We're in hopes that it's a short term deal," said William E. Robertson, a wealthy New Orleans civic leader, "but we're not going to disband until Mr. Garrison's case is proved or disproved."

Robertson referred to Truth and Consequences of New Orleans, Inc., an organization of 50 businessmen which has been backing Garrison since the district attorney's undercover investigation became public knowledge last February.

At that time, Garrison said he couldn't maintain the secrecy he needed if public funds were used in the probe. Such expenditures would be a matter of public record.

"I knew he couldn't conduct it in a godflesh bowl," said Joseph M. Rault Jr., head of Rault Petroleum Corp., and a member of Truth and Consequences. "I believe he should be allowed to carry this thing through."

We provide him with the tool, in this case, money."

Robertson, who is chairman of Truth and Consequences, said last June 9 that the organization had donated $9,418 to Garrison's probe, and that all but $386 had been spent. This month, he said Garrison's expenditures had totaled "a little over $10,000, but not much more."

Garrison, he added, "has the courage to carry through an investigation most Americans think should have been reopened."

MINUTEMEN

He said the right-wing Minutemen organization was not responsible for the assassination but that "key individuals" in the alleged plot were members of the group.

"I have to emphasize that no single organization was involved," Garrison asserted. "There are Minutemen belonging to the Dallas police force and Minutemen all over the place."

"But the Minutemen organization as such is not involved. There are several individuals who are identified with the John Birch Society but again the John Birch Society is not involved in any way."

(Orher edition): Why are they contributing to the fund? Roberton, who frequently has taken issue with the Warren Commission's conclusions, put it this way: "Truth and consequences, a group of sincere responsible citizens acting out of patriotism, is doing what it can to help find an answer to the question: 'Was there a conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy?'"

Garrison, he added, has the courage to carry through an investigation most Americans think should have been reopened.

Said Rault: "I believe it should be left to a judge and jury to decide whether Mr. Garrison has a case or not. We're just in this because -- as the name says -- we want the truth to come out. No matter what the results are, I hope the consequences could be to 'arrisco n.'"