

How New Orleans Now Feels About Garrison

New Orleans, La.

Residents of New Orleans are becoming increasingly upset at the activities of their district attorney, Jim Garrison, who last week charged a second man with conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy.

Garrison received international attention earlier this year when he accused Clay L. Shaw, former president of the International Trade Mart here, with participation in a conspiracy to assassinate the President in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. Shaw will come to trial in February.

"How many times can Garrison play the fool and get away with it?" a prominent businessman said this week. "I'm surprised he hasn't been knocked down before this. The governor, the courts or the bar associa-

tion should do something. He should be disbarred for this. His investigation has definitely hurt the image of New Orleans and we cannot forget it."

"People are getting sick of Garrison," a cab driver said. "They were willing to listen at first but I think if he really had something it would have come out by now."

Earlier this week a meeting of the Young Men's Business Club of Greater New Orleans broke up in uproar when Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment," attacked the Warren Commission report.

Garrison also criticizes the report, which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in murdering Kennedy.

But if many people feel that Garrison is embarrassing New Orleans, some con-

tinue to believe that he might have something.

"A lot of people here want to believe Garrison," said a young lawyer, "They don't want to accept the fact that President Kennedy could have been shot by one man."

Garrison has many friends here and a reputation as something of a crusader, particularly for his regular raids on Bourbon street strip joints that never fail to win headlines.

As one labor leader put it: "I like Jim, and if he's wrong, they've got to prove him wrong, and I don't think they've done it yet."

An architect said: "If Garrison's charges are untrue, it is the height of irresponsibility because he has hurt many people. But it is incredible to me that the Supreme Court and FBI would close a case like this when there appear

to be so many holes in it. Garrison might not have the answer, but somehow he seems to have raised some interesting questions."

A number of businessmen and political figures are privately critical of Louisiana Governor John J. McKeithen for not having denounced Garrison. They also resent the position of Senator Russell B. Long (Dem-Ala.), who has been one of Garrison's leading supporters and helped raise a fund from local businessmen to finance his investigation.

If the District Attorney is still a popular topic of conversation in New Orleans, the novelty and shock of his original charges appear to be starting to fade.

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