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Report from New Orleans

Garrison claims Oswald told FBI of conspiracy

At a recent press conference in New Orleans, District Attorney Jim Garrison said that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting as a federal informant, told the FBI five days before the assassination that an attempt would be made on the President's life. The article appeared in the New Orleans Times-Picayune, and was written by Rosemary James, the reporter who first broke the story of Garrison's investigation.

Garrison said he has evidence that those involved in a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy had a final meeting Sunday Nov. 17, 1963.

"That day, the FBI sent out a TWX (interbureau telegram) announcing that on Nov. 22, an attempt will be made to assassinate John F. Kennedy in Dallas."

Oswald, who was shot in Dallas by Jack Ruby two days after Kennedy's death, was identified by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin involved in the shooting of the President.

Garrison, who has been conducting his own investigation of the president's death for more than a year, said today that Oswald was employed as an FBI informant, that those involved in the conspiracy knew Oswald was an informant and intended all along to "make him the goat."

He said the telegram containing the alleged plot information "went to J. Edgar Hoover. What came down to the President, you can judge for yourself in that he was allowed to ride without a bubbletop (on his car) in that parade in Dallas."

Two more subpoenaed

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New Orleans, LA Jan 9 (LNS)—District Attorney Jim Garrison announced the subpoenas of two more witnesses in his continuing probe of the Kennedy assassination. They are James Hicks of Enid, Oklahoma and Kerry Thornley, an ex-marine buddy of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The District Attorney's office said that Hicks, an estimate specialist at Vance Air Force Base, was in Dealey Plaza, Dallas when President Kennedy was murdered. His name appears nowhere in the proceedings of the Warren Commission.

No further information on Hicks was released in New Orleans, but I learned that Hicks had been to see Garrison in July, 1967. At that time, he told Garrison that he was near the presidential limousine when the President was killed. He said that he saw gunshots come from the grassy knoll and the Book Depository Building. He also said that he saw a man inside of an automobile trunk before the shooting.

Hicks also identified six men from photographs shown him by Garrison as Cubans he had known

is "one of the most sincere and dedicated men I have ever met." He also said that, after meeting with Garrison, he is convinced that the District Attorney has strong evidence which shows that more than one man was involved in the assassination.

Garrison disclosed that Thornley had been associated with Oswald in the marines. Thornley told the Warren Commission (9H82-117) that he had met Oswald in early 1959 while they were stationed at El Toro Marine Base in Southern California.

Oswald had been attached to Thornley's company after losing his secret security clearance by pouring beer over a sergeant's head. He had previously worked in the security files and had a higher clearance than most marines in that company.

Some critics of the Warren Report have pointed to Thornley's testimony as one of many indications that Oswald was not a leftist. It would be odd for a marine who identified himself as a communist and subscribed to a Russian newspaper to have a high security clearance.

Thornley later wrote a book, THE IDLE WARRIORS, which was, he said, inspired by Oswald