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Garrison Hit at Hearing Plot Charge Called 'Fraud'

ROSE LIE H. WHITTEN
San Francisco Correspondent

COLUMBUS (Ohio) — The former chief investigator in the New Orleans "assassination plot" swore yesterday District Attorney Jim Garrison's conspiracy is a "baseless fraud."

William J. Gurvich, testifying in a post-of-state witness hearing on Gordon Novack in Columbus, detailed for the first time under oath his seven-month tenure as No. 1 agent for the New Orleans district attorney.

Gurvich is seeking the return of a "confidential" source of New Orleans to help in the case of Novack and Gurvich says they believe the source is innocent of what they charge.

Gurvich, 42, was in New Orleans for 12 years as a family man in the city. He called a group of other witnesses and reporters to testify in Novack's alleged case.

TALES OF INTRIGUE

But Gurvich wound up telling an Ivanhoe-tangle tale of intrigue and misuse of power in the office of Garrison. These were some of his sworn revelations:

- Garrison once said the

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Hearing Told Garrison Plot Charge a 'Fraud'

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assassination probe would end with the chief defendant, Novack, charged with conspiracy to commit a murder.

• Garrison once ordered Gurvich to "invest" into and report on two NBC newsmen, Walter Sheridan and Robert Downey, who had been critical of Garrison's investigation.

Garrison changed his mind quickly and somewhat abruptly and over-stated the differences between different views of the case — none of them were substantial.

Gurvich's testimony was turned over to the FBI by a "confidential" source.

Garrison was "falsely" accused of a "baseless fraud" by a "confidential" source.

THE NEW YORK TIMES
Garrison was "falsely" accused of a "baseless fraud" by a "confidential" source.

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