

Garrison Calls Off Dinner in Dispute Over 'Censorship'

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Declaring that he would not submit to censorship, District Attorney Jim Garrison abruptly canceled a dinner that was to be held here Saturday night by the National District Attorney's Association.

The association's president, William J. Raggio, said he had refused to permit Mr. Garrison to deliver a speech criticizing the Federal courts and asserting that President Johnson should be hanged for concealing evidence concerning the assassination of President Kennedy.

About 600 persons were scheduled to attend the dinner at the Hotel Monteleone, but Mr. Garrison canceled it. He ordered the manager to send the food to local orphanages and to lock the doors of the hotel's hall, even though the guests had paid in advance.

The association had received assurances from Mr. Garrison's office that he would not speak on the assassination, but it was learned today that he did intend to discuss his investigation into the slaying of President Kennedy, according to Mr. Raggio.

At a meeting in Mr. Raggio's hotel room this afternoon, Mr. Garrison was reminded of the previous assurances and he was asked not to discuss the assassination.

Mr. Raggio said Mr. Garrison had acted "completely irrationally" and used obscene language in insisting he would assail the Federal courts and tell the people they should hang President Johnson.

Mr. Raggio then canceled Mr. Garrison's speech and the New Orleans District Attorney canceled the dinner.

Mr. Garrison issued a statement, which was subsequently broadcast on television here, asserting he had canceled the scheduled dinner rather than submit to censorship.

In an interview later Saturday night, Mr. Garrison said that he had never given any assurances about not discussing his investigation and that the dispute was simply a matter of censorship.

He added that he would see to it that payment was made for the dinner, if that proved necessary.