

# Garrison here Aug. 7 Blaine Thompson refuses to handle advertising

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Jim Garrison, the New Orleans DA who has been indicted on charges of conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy, will arrive in New York City on Sunday, July 14, to appear at the Mark Hellinger Theatre for a performance of the play "The Garrison Story" which will feature Garrison's life and work.

Press columnists. They will attempt to link together the two Kennedy assassinations and the assassination of Dr. King. Garrison's problem up to this time has been the absolute freeze placed upon his story by communication agents around the country. When he gave a speech in Los Angeles a short while ago, the Los Angeles paper, except the L.A. Free Press, took note of him. And the sponsors of his New York appearance report that a publicist of a man who had been retained for the event was turned down by a local agency, Blaine Thompson. The New York sponsors intend to obtain the newspaper coverage he

needs to subject his case to popular debate. Prominent journalists such as Murray Kempton, Sander Vanocur and Tom Wicker have been invited to attend, but Garrison's supporters are pessimistic. "The Times' man will show up; he'll write the story," said one, "and it will never be printed."

A petition requesting more press coverage is being circulated to politicians and prominent people around the state, and once enough signatures have been gathered, it will be placed in the New York Times as an ad. It reads, in part:

"We do not necessarily agree with anything Mr. Garrison believes. But, Mr. Garrison alleges that he has not had the chance to present his story publicly, and in the proudest tradition of American democracy, we strongly support his right to be heard and argued in open forum."

Jack Banning, publisher of the N.Y. Free Press, and one of the sponsors of Garrison's appearance here, said that it was "paranoia" which prevented Garrison from getting the attention he deserved.

Tickets at the Mark Hellinger Theatre range from \$1 to \$50.

see also New York Free Press 25 Jul 68.