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Garrison says no to New York intellectuals

Jim Garrison will not be in New York August 7. The New Orleans, La. who is the top investigator into the facts surrounding the JFK assassination was due to speak at the Mark Hellinger Theatre. It would have been his first appearance in New York City.

Garrison was reportedly angered by the fact that Edward Jay Epstein, who had written an article critical of Garrison for the New Yorker and is now under contract to write a book, was asked to participate in the panel asking questions on the Mark Hellinger stage. Epstein was recommended by a close friend of Garrison's, Jones Harris, who told the sponsors here that Epstein was writing an article which was a "little critical" and he still would be a suitable member of the panel. (Harris

was the only person to see the article before publication).

The facts Epstein used had been collected by him at Garrison's office at New Orleans, and the assumption is that Epstein and Harris had misrepresented to Garrison the reasons for their close association with them.

Garrison, according to the Free Press source, now feels betrayed, and will not come to New York under any conditions. He will continue with his investigation "no matter how crazy people think he is."

His New York appearance was sponsored chiefly by the New York Free Press. Among the other backers were Bob Silver, editor of the New York Review of Books, and John Prescott, Public Relations for "Hair", the rock musical.

* For earlier story, see NY Free Press, 11 Jul 68.

** New Yorker, 13 Jul 68, on stands 11 Jul 68.