

Nov. 1, 1968

JFK PLOT PROBE SUBPENA ISSUED

I Am No Use to Him, Says Tacoma Man

By CLARENCE DOUCET

OCT 31

A Tacoma, Wash., man, subpoenaed Thursday in relation with District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination, told The Times-Picayune his only connection is that "I know a guy who knows some Cubans."

In a telephone interview, Fred Lee Crisman was asked if he will fight the Orleans Parish Grand Jury subpoena ordering his appearance as a witness and he replied:

"I have no reason to go to New Orleans."

The subpoena calls for his appearance before the grand jury at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 21.

A statement by Garrison's office said "Crisman has been engaged in undercover activity for a part of the industrial warfare complex for years. His cover is that of a 'preacher' and a person engaged in work to help gypsies."

NOT A PREACHER

Crisman said that he is not a preacher, but he did outline a federal program which was accepted by the Office of Economic Opportunity, "to help gypsies." He said he submitted the program earlier this year and it is now in effect at Head Start schools in Tacoma and Baltimore, Md.

The statement from Garrison's office also said:

"Our information indicates that since the early 1960s he has made many trips to the New Orleans and Dallas areas in connection with his undercover work for that part of the warfare industry engaged in the manufacture of what is termed, in military language, a 'hardware'—meaning those weapons sold to the U.S. government which are uniquely large and expensive."

Crisman was identified as a "former" employe of the Boeing Aircraft Company.

Crisman said that he once did work for Boeing; and he also told The Times-Picayune, "Yes, I have been to New Orleans quite a few times." He also said he had been to Dallas, Tex., on occasion, but he insisted "I am of no use to him," referring to Garrison.

KNOWS BECKHAM

He said the only reason he could think of that would ex-

Cont. on Page 3, Col. 2

CRISMAN DENIES PLOT KNOWLEDGE

Continued from Page 1

plain why the subpoena was issued is that he is a friend of business.

Thomas Edward Beckham, the singing minister from Omaha, Neb., who has already testified before the grand jury in connection with the JFK death probe.

"In fact," he said, "Tommy (Beckham) called me today and he also called me last night." He did not discuss the phone calls further, but he identified Beckham as the person to whom he referred when he said, "I know a guy who knows some Cubans."

When Beckham was called as a witness, the subpoena alleged he was in Dallas in November, 1963, the month that President Kennedy was assassinated there.

"I always thought Garrison had something," said Crisman, "but this (the subpoena) is a little humorous."

He said he has known Beckham for about two-and-a-half years.

In explaining his reference to Crisman as a "former" Boeing employe, the office asserted:

"In intelligence terminology this ordinarily means that the connection still exists but that the 'former employe' has moved into an underground operation. More often than not a 'bad record' or evidence indicating that he has been 'fired' is prepared for the parent company to increase the disassociation between the two."

EVIDENCE ALLEGED

"Mr. Crisman is being called as a witness because our office has developed evidence indicating a relationship on his part to persons involved in the assassination of President John Kennedy."

Garrison maintains that the assassination was the result of a conspiracy. The Warren Commission said Lee Harvey Oswald, alone, was responsible for Kennedy's death.

"... We want to reiterate," said the statement from Garrison's office, "that President Kennedy was murdered by elements of the industrial warfare complex working in concert with individuals in the United States government. At the time of his murder, President Kennedy was working to end the Cold War. By that time, however the Cold War

had become America's biggest business. "The annual income of the defense industry was well over \$20 billion a year, and there were forces in that industry and in the U.S. government which opposed the ending of the Cold War."