

THE STATES - ITEM

DA Repeats Belief JFK Killed in Plot

By ALLAN KATZ

DA Jim Garrison today reiterated his belief that the late President John F. Kennedy was assassinated "by intelligence elements of the U.S. government because Kennedy would not agree to send combat troops to Southeast Asia."

Garrison made a rare public appearance since a spinal infection forced him to undergo lengthy medical treatment shortly after he was re-elected in a first-primary victory over three opponents in November, 1969.

The DA, obviously in good spirits but considerably heavier than he has been in the past, said he had never heard of a spinal infection until he was stricken by one.

GARRISON, WHOSE investigation led to the arrest of New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw for allegedly conspiring to kill President Kennedy, said he does not believe the alleged plot to kill Kennedy "can be covered up much longer." Shaw was acquitted of the charges against him last year by a jury which deliberated less than an hour following a three-month trial.

The DA maintained that Kennedy was killed over the central issue of inserting U.S. troops in Vietnam.

"It wasn't until after Kennedy was killed that half-a-million American troops went to Vietnam," Garrison said. "There is not the slightest possibility of the U.S. withdrawing from Southeast Asia. It doesn't matter what (President) Nixon, (Secretary of State) Laird or anyone else says."

GARRISON SAID HE has

been pleased by brisk sales of his recently-published book, "Heritage of Stone," which tells of his views on the Kennedy assassination. The book is in its second printing, having sold out in the first two weeks it was available.

The DA said he has not read a book by James Kirkwood, "America Grotesque," which is highly critical of Garrison and his handling of the Shaw investigation.

Garrison said he recalled talking to Kirkwood and recalled the writer as an "intelligent" person.

Garrison said he believes the American people are due much credit "because they have not accepted" the theory that the late Lee Harvey Oswald was a simple assassin in an uncomplicated plot to kill Kennedy.

THE DA SAID THAT his book, "Heritage of Stone," was written in a moderate, impersonal tone because he did not want to enter into a debate over personalities. He said his book does not include the pronoun "I" and also does not mention Clay Shaw by name.

Garrison said that a two-year investigation of his income tax returns by the Internal Revenue Service is still continuing. The DA added he feels their task has been complicated by the fact that Garrison's fiscal affairs are so uncomplicated that he has been able to file his returns on a short form.

The DA, asked about his health, said he feels "fine" and has been able to return to the office but is still somewhat limited in what his doctors will allow him to do.

District Attorney Jim Garrison today announced the arrests of nine persons allegedly responsible over a two-year period for the theft from a motor freight company of merchandise valued at \$25,000-\$30,000 a month.

Garrison made the announcement in his office standing in front of a huge stack of television sets, outboard motors and other merchandise that undercover agents allegedly purchased from the ring. He said the ring stole the merchandise from the Red Ball Motor Freight Inc.

The district attorney, making one of the first public appearances since a back ailment forced him to undergo extensive treatment in late 1969, said the ring systematically stole the merchandise through juggling of invoices.

THOSE ARRESTED are:

EUGENE HARRIS, 34, no address, charged with conspiracy to commit theft.

ULYSSES BAILEY, 30, 1738 Bartholomew, charged with theft and possession of stolen goods.

JOHN H. JOHNSON, 2525 S. Galvez, charged with theft and possession of stolen merchandise.

WALTER R. FAULK, 43, 4812 Press Drive, charged with theft and possession of stolen merchandise.

SAM POOLE, 32, 2422 St. Thomas, charged with theft and possession of stolen merchandise.

ISAAC BROWN, 2124 Egan, charged with theft and possession of stolen merchandise.

JOSEPH W. SARCHET, 26, 535 Sizeler, Jefferson Parish, charged with theft and possession of stolen merchandise.

ALFRED STOLZENBERG III, 33, 4708 Clearview Parkway, Jefferson Parish, charged with theft and possession.

LOYCE KRAEMER, female, 30, 3205 Homer Street, Algiers, charged with possession of stolen goods.

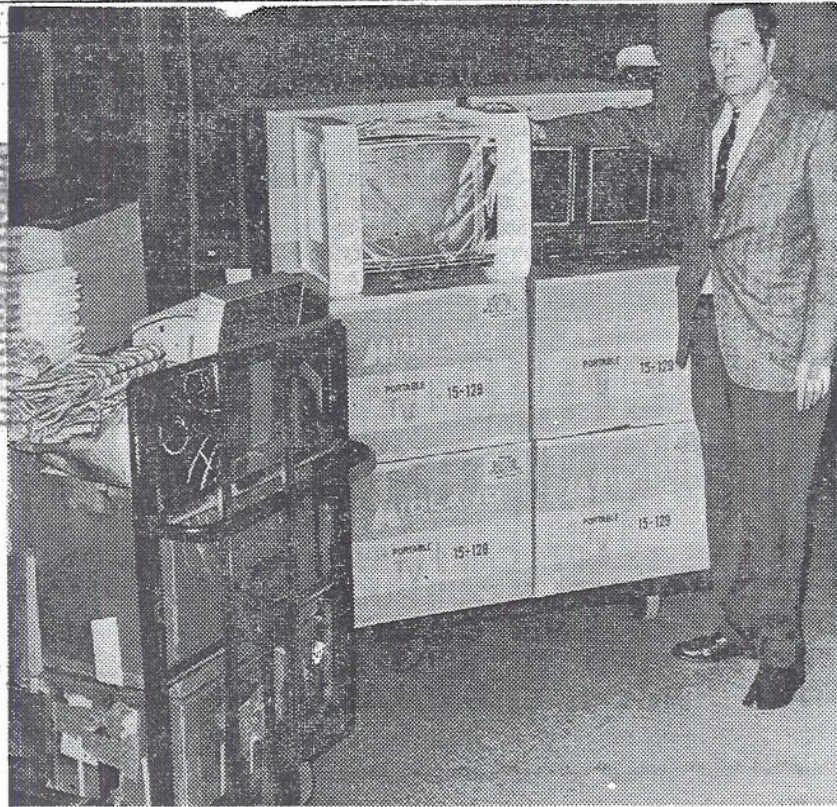
Louis Ivon, chief investigator for the DA's office; said all nine, except for the Kraemer woman, worked for the Red Ball company.

IVON ALSO said additional arrests in the case will occur in the next few days. He said the ring was connected with employes of other motor freight companies who conspired with them to steal goods from their firms.

Garrison said the ring managed to steal merchandise by loading more goods than were required by the invoice on a truck. The goods then became "available" for sale through the ring.

The district attorney said his staff

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—States-Item photo.

DA JIM GARRISON with part of recovered loot.

9 Arrested in Theft Ring

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became aware of the availability of "hot" merchandise and assigned two undercover agents to make purchases from the ring.

He said the undercover agents did such a good job over a two-month period that, just prior to the arrests, they were making their purchases of TVs, stereos and outboard motors on credit.

GARRISON SAID that at one point the undercover agents drove a rented truck up to a Red Ball conveyor belt and members of the ring helped load merchandise on the truck.

The DA said the ring sold their "hot" merchandise at slashed prices. An \$1,800 outboard motor sold for \$150. A \$250 television set sold for \$50.

Garrison said that at one point the undercover men bought a \$3,500 casket from the ring but had to forward it to a funeral home for which it originally was intended because the casket was needed for a burial.

Ivon said the nine arrested thus far and others who may be arrested also will be liable for federal charges because many of the goods they stole were in interstate commerce.

The undercover agents purchased goods worth about \$7,000 wholesale during the two-month investigation.