

THE STATES-ITEM

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The States-Item prints the news impartially. It supports what it believes to be right. It opposes what it believes to be wrong, without regard to party politics.

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Investigate Garrison

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's scathing personal attack on Federal District Judge Herbert W. Christenberry may or may not constitute contempt of court. It is clearly contemptible conduct, however, especially for one who clothes himself in the robes of virtue.

Mr. Garrison attacked Judge Christenberry after the judge ruled the district attorney could not prosecute a perjury charge against Clay L. Shaw. Mr. Garrison brought the charge after he failed to convict Mr. Shaw on a trumped up charge of conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Judge Christenberry said the perjury charge was brought in bad faith and for the purpose of harassment.

In a statement issued Monday, Mr. Garrison said, in effect, that Judge Christenberry is a liar who has distorted the facts.

Mr. Garrison not only has sought to pervert our judicial system for his own ends, but has sought to destroy confidence in the judiciary itself by vilifying one of its most respected members.

We believe it is time — past time — for someone or some organization with the proper authority to take action against Mr. Garrison, before he does any more damage to our judicial system and to innocent individuals. Is this asking too much? Or are we surrounded by timid men, cowering in the darkness of their own fear?

This newspaper calls on the Louisiana State Bar Association to investigate Mr. Garrison's conduct for the purpose of instituting disbarment proceedings. The district attorney's conduct has brought nothing but disrepute to the legal profession in this state. He is a discredit to the law and, in our opinion, should be banished from it.