

JUN 30 1971

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Garrison Bjt NL 350 Two Takes Total 560

NEW ORLEANS AP - Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, who headed a probe of President Kennedy's assassination, was arrested Wednesday on a federal charge of taking bribes to protect gambling.

Nine others, including the commander of the police vice squad, also were arrested. Garrison and the officers were accused of taking up to \$1,500 a month in payoffs.

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Garrison Bjt NL Correction

NEW ORLEANS Garrison Bjt NL A276 to clarify the division of money, 2nd graf read at end: accused of taking payoffs, with the district attorney getting up to \$1,500 a month.

CC 1136 PED 30

No indictment was involved.

Charges were based on a 108-page affidavit compiled by federal investigators and including transcripts of secretly recorded conversations with Garrison.

The 6-foot-6 district attorney, now 48 and ailing with complications from a slipped spinal disc, immediately accused the federal government of persecuting him because of his ill-fated Kennedy probe.

"I knew this was coming for years," he said after leaving the U.S. magistrate's office where he was released on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond.

But I had decided I would keep pushing until they killed me, or put me in prison.

"I have pounded away at the warfare complex of this government and have not given up," he added. "I have pounded at the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency and this had to happen sooner or later."

Police officers arrested with Garrison were Capt. Frederick Soule Sr., who is attached to the district attorney's investigative staff, and Sgt. Robert N. Frey, vice squad chief.

All 10 were charged with illegal gambling, use of bribery to obstruct law enforcement, interstate travel or transportation in aid of racketeering and conspiracy.

Preliminary hearing was set for July 9. The magistrate's hearing was to inform all 10 of the charges against them; they were not required to enter pleas.

Asked if he intends to step down as district attorney while charges are pending, Garrison said: "Absolutely not."

"I don't think it will have any effect on the efficiency of my office," he added. "I'm not going to let my personal problems interfere with the operation of my office."

Garrison declined comment on the prominent role of Pershing Gervais, once his closest associate, now a private investigator and president of a bail bonding firm, who was named as the man who supplied information for the charge.

MORE

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NEW ORLEANS Take 2 Garrison NL Bjt a276: charge. 210

Gervais was Garrison's chief investigator from 1962 until 1965. The affidavit said Garrison, Soule and Frey received payments of as much as \$1,500 a month to protect illegal gambling in coin-operated pinball machine operations.

16th graf to correct figures and rephrase, sub: 1965.

The affidavit said Garrison, Soule and Frey divided payments of up to \$2,200 a month to protect illegal gambling in coin-operated pinball machine operations.

Gervais: 17th graf.
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Gervais was named as the intermediary for the payments. Police Supt. Clarence Giarruso told a news conference that he would take no administrative action regarding Capt. Soule and Sgt. Frey "until I get the facts." Garrison's assassination probe was climaxed by the acquittal of New Orleans businessman clay L. Shaw in 1969. Shaw was cleared of a charge of conspiring to murder the president, who was assassinated in Dallas in 1963.

Shaw was then charged with perjury, accused of lying to the state Criminal District Court jury which acquitted him. Last May, U.S. District Judge Herbert W. Christenberry stopped further prosecution on the charge. He said it was vindictive harassment. Garrison appealed.

In addition to Garrison and the officers, others charged were identified as John A. Callery, 63, who was the chief lobbyist for the pinball machine industry in the legislature, and six executives of amusement machine firms.

The six were John J. Elms Jr., 29; Lawrence L. LaGarde, 52; Harby S. Marks Jr., 57; Robert Mims, 40; John Elmo Pierce, 54, and Louis M. Boasberg, 60, all of New Orleans.

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