

Informer Says U.S. Made Him Entrap Garrison

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Pershing Gervais, the Federal Government's informer who said he delivered payoffs to New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison in a gambling case, was quoted yesterday as saying he was forced to entrap Garrison after calculated harassment of himself by the Justice Department.

In a filmed report from British Columbia, WWL-TV of New Orleans showed Gervais saying he was unhappy about his role in connection with Garrison's arrest, although he said the government had got him an \$18,000-a-year job — tax free — with General Motors of Canada.

United States Attorney Gerald Gallinghouse, asked about the television interview, said he was aware of it, but added, "The law and court rules do not allow us to comment on pending cases."

PINBALL

Garrison, along with two police officers and six persons involved in the pinball machine industry, were charged last June in connection with an alleged cover-up of illegal gambling in the state. All are free on

bond, awaiting trial.

Garrison has repeatedly said his arrest was part of a government plot against him, stemming from his persistent investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Key to the government's case was a 107-page affidavit quoting transcribed conversation between Gervais and various persons who allegedly were involved in the payoffs.

TRACED

Since the affidavit was released, Gervais, a former associate of Garrison, has



PERSHING GERVAIS
'I was forced to lie'

been in seclusion.

WWL-TV reporter Rosemary James said she had traced Gervais to Vancouver, B.C., where he was living under the name of Paul Maso with his wife and two children.

In answer to Mrs. James' questions about his involvement he said, "My mind's a little muddled about it, but it started with constant, calculated harassment."

"What are you saying?" she asked.

"I would rather say that I was forced to work for them . . . but more than that, I was forced to lie for them, that's a better description," Gervais replied.

INTRIGUE

Gervais is no stranger to police intrigue and undercover work. He was once a member of the New Orleans police force, but was fired. He later gave testimony before a parish grand jury which was considered instrumental in a public bribery indictment brought against former police Superintendent Joseph L. Scheuering, the man who fired him.

Gervais served as Garrison's chief investigator for a time, and has been a private investigator.

Associated Press

Garrison Aide Says U.S. Trapped Him

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NEW ORLEANS — (AP)

A former chief investigator for District Attorney Jim Garrison says the U.S. Justice Department forced him to entrap his former boss, who has been charged in a federal gambling case.

The charge was made by Pershing Gervais during a TV interview conducted in British Columbia, where Gervais is living under the name of Paul Mason with his wife and two children.

Gervais said that, although the government had gotten him an \$18,000-a-year

job with General Motors of Canada, he was unhappy with his role in Garrison's arrest.

U.S. Attorney General L. B. Nichols, when asked the TV report, said he was aware of it but that court rules would not allow him to comment on a pending case.

Garrison was not available for comment. But in a letter to The Time-Picayune today he said that the Justice Department "is corrupt beyond any possible description."

He has said repeatedly that he was framed.

SFChronicle

MAY 24 1972

A Denial Of Garrison Entrapment

New Orleans, La.

The man who supervised the federal gambling case against New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison denied yesterday that the Justice Department had forced a Garrison aide into entrapping the district attorney.

Monday, Pershing Gervais was quoted as saying he was forced by what he called calculated harassment to work and lie for the government. He said that he had been successful in "getting Garrison."

Tom Kennelly, former deputy chief of the department's organized crime and racketeering division, said yesterday that Gervais became an informer with no strings attached and that his testimony was not needed to prosecute Garrison.

Associated Press