

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1972

Gervais Coming Home Despite Murder Threat

Pershing Gervais was continuing his long trek back to New Orleans today amid reports that local and federal authorities are taking steps to protect him against a threat of murder.

The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office yesterday acknowledged that it received a report of a threat on Gervais' life.

A source said a "contract" on Gervais, a central figure in the federal government's bribery case against Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and others, has been put out and efforts to find a "hit" man to kill Ger-

vais are under way. The would-be murderer is being offered a five-figure sum to do the job, the report says.

GERVAIS has been in Canada under an assumed name since shortly after he swore out a 107-page affidavit charging Garrison, two former policemen and six pinball operators with illegal gambling and bribery. He recently renounced the affidavit, saying the federal government forced him to lie about the case and then found him a "fake" job in Canada. He is now report-

edly driving back to Louisiana from Vancouver, B. C.

In a telephone interview yesterday from Utah with the Vancouver Sun, Gervais identified three of the five U.S. Justice Department officials he said arranged his Canadian retreat.

The three were Gerald Shur, Ries Cash and Kathy Kimry, he said.

Gervais claims the U.S. government, as payment for his "false" affidavit, smuggled him into Canada, provided him an alias, arranged a "Minister's permit" to get around immigration laws, and got him an \$18,000-a-year job with General Motors of Canada.

BRYCE MACKASEY, Canadian manpower and immigration minister, said in Montreal that Gervais' permit to work in Canada was revoked yesterday, about a month before it was due to expire. He said it probably had been issued "on the basis that the man's life could have been endangered or in jeopardy because of his role," but now, he said, "obviously there can't be too much danger or otherwise he wouldn't have gone back."

Gervais told the Sun that Shur originally wanted him to spy on the Canadian government for an oil company, but

Cash had reservations about this. He said Cash also had "some scruples about lying to a friendly government," including the issuance of a fake birth certificate enabling Gervais' underage son from enrolling in a Vancouver school.

His "contact man" with the Canadian government was a Royal Canadian Mounted Police sergeant named Blackmore, Gervais told the newspaper. "If any problem arose, I was supposed to get hold of him and he would fix it," he said.

The Sun said one of two telephone numbers provided by Gervais was for the home of Reg Blackmore, who retired from the RCMP last month. He admitted working in the RCMP intelligence unit but declined to discuss the case. RCMP Commissioner W. L. Higgitt, contacted in Ottawa, was also mum. "This is the kind of thing we don't talk about," he said.

IN NEW ORLEANS, U.S. Atty. Gerald J. Gallinhouse declined to comment directly on the reported threat to Gervais, but did say, "We would be very concerned about any threat to the safety of any potential witness in a federal case whether he was friendly or hostile."

Police Supt. Clarence B. Giarrusso said his department "will do whatever is necessary to protect Mr. Gervais," but he also declined to say whether police are investigating a specific threat to Gervais.

Jefferson authorities said if Gervais returns to Metairie the sheriff's office would be responsible for his protection.

Gervais has been quoted as saying the fear of bodily harm to himself and his family was "the main reason" he left New Orleans.

Sgt. Mac...