

JFK murder investigator says Garrison was framed by U.S. Justice Dep't

A former investigator for New Orleans District attorney Jim Garrison revealed in Vancouver, Canada Tuesday that he had framed Garrison on gambling charges at the direction of the United States Justice Department.

Mr. P. Gervais said that he has been living in Canada since last July, and since September has been drawing an \$18,000 a year salary for a non-existent job with General Motors in Oshawa, outside Vancouver. The job was given him by the Justice Department, which, according to Gervais, ordered GM to set up the phony job and a false identity for Gervais.

A GM spokesman pleaded the Fifth Amendment when asked to confirm Gervais' report.

Wednesday Gervais headed back to the U.S. to "face whatever I have to face," he said.

Jim Garrison, the stormy D.A. who fought the Justice Department's findings in the John Kennedy assassination investigation, was indicted last June, along with two police officers and six other persons, in connection with illegal gambling activities in Louisiana. Garrison and the others are currently free on bail. Garrison has consistently maintained that he was framed on the gambling charge.

Gervais, Garrison's former aide, admitted in his public confession that he was forced by the Justice Department to trap Garrison. He said that he now is unhappy about his
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role in the affair and has decided to reveal the truth.

Appearing on a New Orleans TV show, Monday night filmed in Vancouver, Gervais stated, "I was forced to work for them — meaning the Justice Department — but more than that I was forced to lie for them." Asked by the TV interviewer if he "participated in a deliberate frame up of Jim Garrison" and others "under the direction of the Federal Government," Gervais replied "Without a doubt — I'm saying that unequivocally." Gervais then asserted that he would take a polygraph (lie-detector) test to prove his allegations.

Gervais also alleged that the

Justice Department had guaranteed him \$22,000 a year tax free, and paid his way to Canada where they had arranged phony employment for him.

In Canada, living under the name of Paul Mason, Gervais was employed as a field traffic manager for General Motors. However, according to Gervais, "I never even had a desk. There was no work involved and I didn't even have to go to the office, but I went in about once a week just because I was bored."

In Vancouver, Les Slimon, zone office manager for GM, confirmed that a Paul Mason had been employed by the firm and had called Tuesday to announce that he was quitting and returning the company car. Said Slimon, "He reported in occasionally but there have been a hell of a lot of times when I haven't been able to get hold of him. He hasn't done us a real lot of good here," said Slimon.

Another GM spokesman in Oshawa, R.F. Baker, was asked under what circumstances Gervais had been hired and replied, "I'll have to take the Fifth Amendment on that one."

Gervais said that he received \$4,000 a year tax free from the U.S. government. He also asserted that the U.S. and Canadian governments had colluded to gain his entry into Canada and to secure his employment at GM.

The chief spokesman for Garrison in New Orleans told *Earth News* that Mr. Garrison would make no comment on the incident. "It's a matter between the Justice Department and Mr. Gervais," said the spokesman.

Earth News learned that Gervais left Vancouver Tuesday to travel by car to New Orleans. He was not available for further comment.

Murder Contract

Police in New Orleans are investigating reports that a murder contract has been put out on Pershing Gervais.

According to the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* (May 26), local and Federal authorities are now investigating the reports of a murder contract, said to be for a five-figure

sum. The paper reported that efforts had been made to find a "hit-man" in the New Orleans area earlier in the week.

U.S. Attorney Gerald Gwillinghouse, charged with prosecuting the Garrison case, said he would be very concerned for the safety of anyone in the case, and that any attempt on Gervais' life would constitute a Federal crime, since he is a witness in a Federal case.

In other developments, Canadian immigration Minister Bryce McKasay Thursday revoked the special ministerial immigration permit which had been issued to Gervais. The special immigration permits are issued by the Crown when all other efforts to gain immigration to Canada fail. Gervais had originally been denied immigrant status due to a prior "moral turpitude" conviction.

The special permit, issued to Gervais in December, 1971, on "humanitarian grounds," was granted by former Immigration

Minister, Otto Lang, who said Thursday that he and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were fully aware of all the circumstances of Gervais' entry.

Before leaving Vancouver, Gervais identified three Justice Department agents — Ries Cash, Gerald Shur and Kathy Kimry — whom he said helped to arrange his unorthodox move to Canada.

Mackasay, the current Immigration Minister, when asked if Gervais' life would be jeopardized by the permit cancellation, replied that since Gervais had voluntarily chosen to leave Canada, there were no longer any humanitarian grounds for letting him stay. "The Canadian government washes its hands of what will happen to him," said the official.

Spokesmen for the FBI, Justice Department and Attorney General's office contacted by *Earth News*, all refused any comment on any aspects of the case. (*Earth News*)