



JIM GARRISON

Garrison Riding A Tiger

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 25 (AP)—Big Jim Garrison, the New Orleans district attorney, has been riding the tiger for a week and looks like he's beginning to enjoy it.

The Chinese proverb had it that he who rides the tiger can never dismount—lest it turn and devour him.

The Kennedy assassination case is Garrison's tiger. He shows no fear of it. Once he could have dismounted gracefully. It would not be easy now.

Too many times, Garrison has repeated that he will prove that a conspiracy here led to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and that he will convict those involved.

The score thus far:

Dead. David W. Ferrie, 49, a free-lance pilot accused of taking part in a plot. Suicide, said Garrison. Natural death, said Coroner Nicholas Cheetta, due to massive brain hemorrhage, possibly brought on by stress.

Proven. To many the world over the Kennedy case is as alive today as it ever was. Despite the exhaustive and official Warren Commission report, which said Lee Harvey Oswald,

a former New Orleans resident, shot the president and there was no credible evidence that others were involved.

Unrevealed. Almost everything in Garrison's hand. Garrison's probe remains a riddle wrapped in an enigma, with the controversial 6-foot-6 district attorney grinning at some of the uproar he had caused.

"The key to the whole case is through the looking glass," he mock-solemnly told an international crew of newsmen, in a statement with an Alice in Wonderland twist.

"Black is white, white is

black. I don't want to be cryptic, but that's the way it is."

The 45-year-old prosecutor, who packs a pistol under his coat, said he realized that the world was "chomping at the bit" to see what comes of his probe. But arrests, he repeated, may not come for months.

Emphasizing the point by exaggeration, he added, "It might be 30 years."

MANY SKEPTICAL

Skeptics are many. But few with official standings, wary of possible backfire, care to be quoted.

One of the few was Texas Gov. John Connally, who said he personally doubts that "anything new or revealing" will come of the New Orleans probe—particularly since many of those known to have been questioned by Garrison already have been put through the wringer by the FBI back in 1963.

Among those extensively questioned in 1963 was Ferrie. When the new investigation started he was a sick and embittered man, living on "coffee, cigarettes and Jello."

In 1963 an informant had linked him with Oswald. Also, Ferrie had made an automobile trip to Texas the day of Nov. 22, 1963, assassination.

HAD NO IDEA

"I had no idea this would turn out to be a stupid move," he said shortly before his death. "It was just a spur of the moment thing for relaxation."

Records in Washington show that the informant later admitted that his story that Ferrie was to be the getaway pilot for the assassin was "a figment of his imagination."

Ferrie ran a small flying service here.

After being requested by Garrison last November, Ferrie was sure he would be arrested. He pestered newsmen for the latest details. He frequently telephoned the district attorney's office in an effort to see where he stood. He started an inpt investigation of his own which he said would prove his innocence. He was under daily surveillance.

Ferrie's death was a shock. He was found in bed Wednesday morning at his messy incredibly cluttered apartment, already rigid in rigor mortis.

W.J.T
2/26/67