



The Garrison Gap

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Washington.
Sen. Russell Long, the Senate whip, who has become Sen. Dodd's most avid defender, revealed last week that Eberhardt Deutsch, "one of the greatest trial lawyers of all time," had offered his services free of charge to get Sen. Dodd out of the pickle he's in with his Senate colleagues over the ethics issue.

Sen. Long also revealed that at one time Jim Garrison, the New Orleans district attorney, had volunteered his services to help Sen. Dodd, but since Garrison became so involved in his own version of the Kennedy assassination, Sen. Long said, "I wouldn't presume to call on him now."

I can't help thinking, on the basis of his performance in the past few months, that the fact that Garrison is tied up is probably the best break Sen. Dodd has had so far. You wonder how Garrison would have defended Sen. Dodd if he had the chance.

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First, Garrison would probably call a press conference and announce he was going to subpoena all six members of the Senate Ethics Committee to testify before a grand jury.

"Why are you going to do that?" he would be asked.

"Because I believe there's a definite conspiracy between the Senate committee, the CIA, the FBI and Oswald. I can't reveal more than that at this moment."

"But what would that have to do with Sen. Dodd?"

"Nothing, but it has a lot to do with Cuba. I can assure you there will be a conviction if I have anything to say about it."

"Mr. Garrison, Sen. Dodd has been charged with using \$116,000 raised at political testimonial dinners for his own personal use. How do you plan to answer that?"

"That \$116,000 was not a money figure but was a code used by the Ethics Committee to contact certain people in Dallas. If you subtract 23,456 from that figure and then add all the odd pages in the World Almanac and then divide this by the days in the month of May, you'll discover that the number you arrive at corresponds exactly with Jack Ruby's telephone number."

"But this doesn't answer the charge that the testimonial dinners were advertised as political events and the people who attended them did not know they were paying off Dodd's personal debts."

"I will produce witnesses who have undergone hypnosis and who will testify they knew in advance what kind of dinners they were attending. Only someone under hypnosis knows the real truth about these affairs."

"What else will you do, Mr. Garrison?"

"I plan to issue warrants for the arrest of the four ex-employees who stole Sen. Dodd's correspondence and I will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that they all had a party two weeks before Dodd fired them. I will also produce as a key witness a narcotics addict who will swear that he saw Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson in a heated discussion with David Ferrie just days before Sen. Dodd gave his fifth testimonial dinner."

"Then from what you say this thing is much bigger than just an ethics question in the Senate?"

"It certainly is. I may have to indict the entire Senate before I'm finished, but I'll get to the bottom of this or I'm not the Jolly Green Giant."

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I'm not saying this is exactly how Garrison would have handled Dodd's case, but on the basis of his track record so far, I think Sen. Dodd can thank his lucky stars he got Eberhardt Deutsch instead.