

# Jim Garrison Says RFK Was Hip to Murder Plots

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison now says that Robert Kennedy kept silent about the Warren Report "because he realized the power that lay behind the forces that killed his brother." Here is the transcript of Garrison's interview by Art Kevin of KHJ radio in Los Angeles.

KEVIN: Mr. Garrison, over the recent few days, Mark Lane made a statement in Boston to the effect that a couple of months before Senator Kennedy was shot and killed here in Los Angeles, as he termed them, emissaries had been in touch with you. And, apparently, he had knowledge of it — to the effect that Senator Kennedy said that he knew there were guns between him and the White House. And that, were he elected President of the United States, he was ready to prosecute these people responsible for his late brother's death. Is that a true statement by Mark Lane?

GARRISON: Yes. That's essentially true, the only thing is, I would use different words in a few senses. For example, emissaries. We had mutual friends that came down to visit from time to time and, as a result, I finally came to understand Senator Kennedy's silence. He was silent, it became apparent, because he realized the power that lay behind the forces that killed his brother.

They didn't come at the same time. One of them did, indeed, when I brought up the question of his continued silence, point out that, were these forces still active in America, the same forces that killed his brother, that Bobby Kennedy, as he put it, was very much aware that there were many guns between him and the White House. And the way he put it, I think it was Bobby Kennedy's quotation — from him.

The details about what he would have done afterwards I'd rather not go into except to say essentially what Mark Lane is saying is true. We had a great deal of confidence that, not only in Senator Kennedy as a man of integrity, but we felt that he was a man that they least wanted in the White House. And that's been demonstrated now. But the phrase "many guns between Senator Kennedy and the White House" was indeed told to me by one of his friends and appears to have originally come from him.

KEVIN: Jim, did you in any way seek contact with Senator Kennedy or did, in fact, these mutual friends come to you?

GARRISON: Well, I told them to let them know so they could let him know that I was going to lean over backwards not to seek him because there were some elements of the press, not all the press, but there were some elements of the press that had smeared me and I didn't want any of the smear to rub off on him in any case. And I recognized by then, it took me a while, but by then I recognized his problem of keeping at arm's length from this particular issue until he became President. So I made a point of not seeking it, but there was kind of, you might say, casual liaison behind the

scenes. And he was very much aware, I think — at the end, that we understood his reasons for silence and at the same time, we had become more aware that he knew of this force in America which is disposing of any individuals who are opposed to the Vietnam war, our involvement with the Vietnam war, or any sort of involvement in the cold war.

KEVIN: Jim, Frank Mankiewicz, the press secretary, the national press secretary to the late Senator Kennedy is quoted now in Washington, you know, reaction to Lane's initial statement. He said, "Well, it would be hard to disprove." Is there any kind of proof, you know, other than the knowledge that you have?

GARRISON: Well, hard to disprove what?

KEVIN: Well, hard to disprove the Lane story and your corroboration of it?

GARRISON: First of all, I don't think Mark Lane would say it if it were not true. It's as simple as that. But, I can assure you that I would not, would not say it if it were not true. As a matter of fact, the statement that was made to me that Bobby Kennedy was well aware that there were many guns between him and the White House and that this is why he did not publicly go into the matter of precisely what forces killed his brother until the time came later on — this was told

to me at Moran's Restaurant on the 700 block of Iberville. But I mean what is this presumption of guilt, the presumption that you're a liar? Mark Lane has never lied that I know of and I certainly wouldn't bother to lie about anything like that. I think that, from what I know of Frank Mankiewicz, he's a good man, but he had nothing to do with anybody in this channel of communication. One of the men with which we had contact from time to time, it was a loose sort of contact, was from New York and another one was from New York state and outside of New York City and another one was out on the West Coast. It was a very loose sort of affair, but we had this liaison.

KEVIN: Jim, may I ask you this and you know I don't want to put you on the spot in any way, shape or form and I know you realize that. However, on the record or off the record, would you allow me as a newsman to trace down, you know, some of the liaison people that you are in contact with so that the story, you know, can be more fully rounded out?

GARRISON: No. I wouldn't because it doesn't matter to me. While I'm very fond of you personally, it doesn't matter to me whether or not the story is corroborated that much. It is true and I wouldn't bother to say it if it isn't true.

I think it's a tragedy and it's more of

a tragedy than most people realize. This talk of violence in the streets is utterly irrelevant. The question is, what's happened to the American and the government in America? That what's happened, violence in the streets has nothing to do with it. But I don't want to, I wouldn't want to elaborate on it anymore because I don't want anybody to think, least of all the Kennedy family, to think we're trying to take advantage of the fact that Senator Kennedy is now among the missing.

KEVIN: Jim, a question now that I guess we can call a \$64 question, but are you prepared to say that the same elements responsible for the death of John F. Kennedy were responsible for the deaths of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and perhaps even Martin Luther King?

GARRISON: Well, you can remove the perhaps. The answer is of course except that in the case of Senator Kennedy, they apparently interposed a cover organization. I doubt if Sirhan Sirhan, since he's younger than the professional shooters they usually use and consider him apparently inexperienced as a professional shooter, which insulates the main organization. But there's no, I don't think there's any question about the fact that the same forces removed everyone. Every one of these men were humanists. They were concerned about the human race. They were not racist in the slightest way, and above all, they were opposed to the evolution of America into an imperialist empire-seeking warfare state. Which it has become, I'm afraid. And now there aren't too many, now there aren't too many leaders left to talk out loud against the war in Vietnam. They're eliminating them, one by one. Always a lone assassin.

KEVIN: Jim, in the federal court dialogue that you're having now in the Clay Shaw case in New Orleans. . . .

GARRISON: It's no dialogue, Art. They just jerked it out of our hands before trial so we couldn't go to trial.

KEVIN: Well, the charge now that they've made, as I'm sure you're aware, is one of illegal wiretap.

GARRISON: We never do it and we haven't done with regard to Shaw. When did they say that?

KEVIN: Well, this came on a charge in New Orleans which we picked up today. It came from, you know, our contact that is working in your city of New Orleans. And the quote he gave me from the federal judgement was, "Shaw's attorneys have charged Garrison with illegal wiretap. Rights of Shaw have been violated by the electronic intrusion of his home." In other words, the implication is that you bugged his house or his phone.

GARRISON: My staff will not even interview anybody in the office unless, they will not record an interview unless the person being interviewed knows that there is a tape recorder there and sees the wheels moving. And the reason I want him to see the wheel moving is if he wants to say something he doesn't want to go down, he can point to the machine and say, "stop it." I am adamantly against the government using these measures, but this is typical of what they've done from the beginning.

They change white into black and black into white. When a witness volunteered to take truth serum, we said well that's fine. We think it's a good idea. And we

