

APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1994
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAMOPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT~~SECRET~~

NO-141-68

Memorandum

DATE: 2 May 1968

TO : Director, Domestic Contact Service
Att'n : Operational Support Staff (Musulin)
FROM : Chief, New Orleans Office
SUBJECT: Case 49364 - Garrison Investigation

Attached are the following clippings:

Times-Picayune - 30 April, 1 and 2 May 1968

New Orleans States-Item - 1 May 1968.

Lloyd A. Ray
LLOYD A. RAY

LARay/gn

Attachments

~~SECRET~~

Garrison to Seek Early Trial of Clay Shaw Case

Times-Picayune
May 6
NEW ORLEANS.

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison said earliest possible date depends Tuesday his office will set the trial on court problems," said presidential assassination con-Garrison. "We are trying to spruce trial date of Clay L. to push it to trial."

Shaw early next week unless On other matters, Garrison Shaw's lawyers appeal a Lou would only say "no comment" Louisiana Supreme Court ruling.

The Louisiana Supreme Court April 21 said it would review the denial of a King assassination being conducted by reporter Louis E. Criminal District Judge Lomax, of the North American Edward A. Haggerty, Shaw's Newspaper Alliance.

attorneys sought to have the trial moved out of Orleans. He also confirmed that State Police Officer I.A. Francis Fruge—cited by the legislative auditor's

According to law, said Garrison's office for travel expense irregularities—worked for his office in which to ask the Louisiana Supreme Court to re-he became indignant when consider its stand. If there is questioned about what period of no appeal, when the 14 days time he did such work.

are up—Tuesday—Garrison said "I don't see the connection," his office will immediately said Garrison, referring to move to set the trial date.

"We will set the trial at the travel expense difficulties.

MAGAZINE, BOOK PUBLISHER SUED

Libel Charged by Cuban Refugee Bringuer

Dr. Carlos Bringuer of 533 Delmar in Gretna Monday filed in Civil District Court a \$1 million libel suit against *Saga* magazine and the publisher of Harold Weisberg's book, "Whitewash—The Report of the War Report.

Bringuer, a well-known Cuban refugee here, made defendants of Gambi Publication Inc., owner of the magazine, Weisberg, and Dell Publishing Co., publisher of the book.

The suit said the magazine in its April 1967 issue printed parts of the book in an article entitled "Kennedy's Murder—

Forced Proof of a Conspiracy." It said Bringuer was de- was the delegate of the Cuban staffed in statements saying he Revolutionary Council, and that was a former Castro government official in Cuba until his States who hates the United defection, that Bringuer dis- States more than he does Russia gusted this allegation to the degree possible during sworn sia.

The suit said Bringuer is testimony before the Warren Commission, and that although avidly dedicated to the cause of Bringuer identified himself to freedom in the Americas and the Warren Commission as a wholeheartedly a patriot of statesman and manager of the United States as evidenced Casa Doce at 187 Decatur, he in part by documents presented was in fact an owner with his to him by the Christian Cru- brother-in-law, Rolando Pelez, sade and the Information Coun-

The suit further alleged def- of the Americas.

uation by the story saying upon Bringuer's arrival in New Orleans on Feb. 18, 1961, he

HALL 'MAY HELP' GARRISON CASE

Reverses Stand in JFK Probe—L.A. Times

The Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday that a key witness sought in District Attorney Jim Garrison's assassination probe has reversed his position and admitted that he may have information which could support the theory of a conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy.

The newspaper said Loren E. Hall, who had been subpoenaed to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in connection with the probe, changed his position in an appearance before Edwin Meese, California Gov. Ronald Reagan's legal affairs and extradition secretary.

The story was written by former New Orleanian Jerry Cohen and stated that Hall had his memory "jogged" by "certain individuals" who reminded him of persons he was in contact with in 1963 before Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

Hall had previously insisted he knew nothing about a conspiracy to kill the president and had successfully fought Garrison's subpoena in the California courts.

Hall reportedly met Meese Tuesday in Sacramento, Calif., and handed over to the governor's aide a list of names of "certain individuals" reminding him of persons he met while making speeches in the Los Angeles area for raising funds for anti-Castro activities.

Hall was quoted as saying he was in touch with Meese to protect himself in case he decides to go to New Orleans to testify. He said he has been giving "serious thought" to appearing in New Orleans.

Hall claimed he spoke at more than 50 meetings in Southern California in the early 1960s seeking support for anti-Castro guerrillas. A former prisoner of Fidel Castro, Hall said he overheard people discussing the possibility of assassinating Kennedy and how it might be done after he finished talking at most of the meetings.

Shaw Trial To Be Set Next Week

District Attorney Jim Garrison has announced that early next week his office will set a date for the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw unless Shaw's attorneys appeal a Louisiana Supreme Court ruling.

The state high court said last week it would not review a decision by Criminal Judge Edward A. Haggerty to deny a change of venue on the trial of Shaw, who is charged by the DA with participating in a conspiracy to kill the late President John F. Kennedy.

Shaw's attorneys have sought to have the trial moved at least 100 miles from New Orleans.

By the law, Garrison said, Shaw has 14 days to ask the state supreme court to reconsider its stand. The 14 days are up Tuesday.

On other matters, Garrison refused comment on whether his office is closely interested in the investigation of the death of Martin Luther King. He confirmed that State Police Officer I.A. Francis Fruge—cited by the legislative auditor for alleged travel expense irregularities—had worked for his office briefly.

Story Studied

The Warren Commission investigation focused on Hall, but only briefly and then inconclusively, in the very late stages of the four-year inquiry which found Lee Harvey Oswald to be the lone assassin.

He figured in it because investigators wanted to tie up loose ends of a disturbing story told by Mrs. Sylvia Odio, then a 26-year-old refugee from Castro Cuba.

Mrs. Odio told the FBI her Dallas apartment had been visited in late September, 1963, by three men seeking her help in anti-Castro activity.

One, she said, was introduced to her as "Leon Oswald," a man described by one of his companions as a "crack marksman" who favored assassinating Mr. Kennedy because of the Bay of Pigs failure.

After the assassination, Mrs. Odio said she saw a picture of Lee Harvey Oswald flashed on television. She said she recognized him as one of her three visitors, then fainted.

Name Submitted

The commission asked the FBI to try to find the three men in an attempt to determine if her story had substance. The FBI came up with Hall's name.

The commission concluded that because of the contradictions in what Hall told the FBI and its own evidence that Oswald was elsewhere on that date—Oswald could not have been one of the three men who visited Mrs. Odio's apartment.

However, the incident still troubles critics of the Warren Commission Report, not the least of whom is Dist. Atty. Garrison.

28 Los Angeles Times 2★
Part I—Wed., May 1, 1968

New Facts on Kennedy Death Plot Claimed

Figure in FBI Probe Says His Information Might Boost Conspiracy Theory

BY JERRY COHEN

Times Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — A figure in the Warren Commission investigation said Tuesday he has information which may support the theory that the assassination of President John F. Kennedy resulted from a conspiracy.

Loren E. Hall made what constituted a surprising reversal of position in an appearance before Edwin Meese, Gov. Reagan's legal affairs secretary.

Hall, who has resisted testifying in a controversial New Orleans investigation into the assassination, previously had insisted he had no knowledge of a conspiracy to kill Mr. Kennedy.

But he said his memory recently had been "jogged" by "certain individuals reminding me of persons I was in contact with in 1963 before the assassination."

Certain Names Supplied

He said he had supplied Meese with the names of "these certain persons I met while making speeches in the Los Angeles area when I was raising funds for anti-Castro activities."

"On almost every occasion after I finished talking at one of these meetings," Hall said, "I'd overhear some people there discuss the possibility of assassinating Kennedy—and how it might be done."

"Not just Kennedy. But also (Chief Justice Earl) Warren and other government officials -- how they could be gotten rid of."

Hall, an adventurer who once was a Castro prisoner, claims to have spoken at more than 50 meetings in Southern California in the early 1960s seeking support for anti-Castro guerrillas, of which he was one.

Silent on Meeting Sites

He said that during the speeches he expressed disappointment at President Kennedy's conduct of the Bay of Pigs incident, but he never personally advocated harming him. Hall declined to specify the sites of the meetings, but said he had supplied Meese with those he could remember.

He said he had been giving "serious thought" to New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's demand that he appear before a grand jury there.

Garrison's office has been in contact with me, and there's a chance I might reconsider about testifying in New Orleans," he said.

But Hall said he had asked for the audience with Meese "to protect myself in the event I do decide to go to New Orleans."

He added, "I felt first I should give any information that might be of value to a proper authority in California, and I decided the governor's legal affairs secretary was that proper authority.

"I don't actually know if what I had to tell Mr. Meese will be useful to anyone investigating the President's murder, but I felt if there's a chance it might be, I ought to tell him."

Please Turn to Page 28, Col. 1

New Kennedy Death Plot Data Claimed

Continued from Third Page

Garrison issued a subpoena late last year for Hall, claiming he was in Dallas "until the assassination" and associated with men the New Orleans prosecutor contends plotted the assassination.

But Hall produced a witness who established he was in California Nov. 22, 1963, and a Bakersfield Superior Court judge upheld his argument that he not be required to answer the Garrison subpoena.

Hall also denied knowing any of the alleged conspirators—including a North Hollywood man, Edgar Eugene Bradley—a position he apparently now has retreated from.

He said after his memory recently was refreshed about "events in 1963 and faces I encountered," he appeared before another Bakersfield judge April 15 and was assured his previous testimony would not make him liable to a perjury charge.

It was then, he said, that he decided to go to Meese. After hearing Hall's story, Meese declined comment on it.