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Subject: Second Associated Press Story on Garrison and Wegmann Collections
AP 3-APR-1996 23:20 EDT RFDJ123COPYRIGHT 1996. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. THE INFORMATION contained in the AP news report may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or otherwise distributed without the prior written authority of The Associated Press. WASHINGTON (AP) -- As an investigator for the late New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, William Gurvich hopped from one Texas airport to the next, seeking clues to support his boss's theory that a conspiracy was at work in President Kennedy's assassination, documents show. At his first stop, "Nobody knew anything ... so I rented an airplane," Gurvich told lawyers for New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw, according to a transcript. Garrison tried Shaw in 1969 on charges of conspiring to kill Kennedy. Shaw was acquitted. Garrison, Gurvich said, suspected that Lee Harvey Oswald and his associates planned a getaway by air after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination. "I went to White Rock, I went to Dallas-Garland, I went to Highland Park," Gurvich recalled. "I struck out everywhere I went." At one point, Garrison had another investigator photocopy more than 4,000 gas receipts in order to place David Ferrie, an anti-Castro activist he also suspected was part of a conspiracy, at one of the airports sometime in 1963, according to Gurvich. Ferrie died in 1967, before he could be tried. "Well, that was a waste of time and money and effort," Gurvich said, "because it never developed into anything." A transcript of Gurvich's interview with Shaw's lawyers in 1967, after he had become disenchanted with the Kennedy probe and quit Garrison's office, was among thousands of pages of private records released Tuesday by the National Archives. The files were obtained by the Assassination Records Review Board from the families of Garrison and Edward F. Wegmann, a member of Shaw's defense team. They are the first private records released by the board for inclusion in the archives' Kennedy assassination records collection. "The public will be able to gain further insight into the investigation from two very different views," said John R. Tunheim, the board chairman. The records have never before been released publicly, although some of the information has been made available to private researchers. Garrison's probe gained fresh publicity when Oliver Stone used it as a basis for his 1992 movie, "JFK." Among Garrison's personal records were memos from an assistant district attorney who interviewed witnesses in Clinton, La., in the summer of 1967. The witnesses gave differing accounts of having seen Oswald in Clinton several months before the assassination. Gurvich, meanwhile, told Shaw's lawyers that potential witnesses against Shaw were coached and paid. "You know they will say anything," Gurvich said. "You can approach Darrell Garner and just tell him who you are and he will just ask you what you want to know and ask you how much you will pay him," Gurvich said, referring to one possible witness. It could not be determined immediately whether Gurvich was referring to the Darrell Garner who was a suspect in the shooting of a

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