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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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NO-141-68



TO : Director, Domestic Contact Service
Att'n : Operational Support Staff (Musulin)

DATE: 2 May 1968

FROM : Chief, New Orleans Office

SUBJECT: Case 49364 - Garrison Investigation

Attached are the following clippings:

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

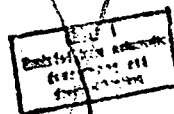
New Orleans States-Item - 1 May 1968.

Lloyd A. Ray
LLOYD A. RAY

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Attachments

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Times-Picayune
 *** 30 April 68

MAGAZINE, BOOK PUBLISHER SUED

Libel Charged by Cuban Refugee Bringuier

Dr. Carlos Bringuier of 332 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, "White-wash—The Report on the Warren Report."

Bringuier, a well-known Cuban refugee here, made defendants of Gamba 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—Fried Proof of a Conspiracy."

It said Bringuier was de-famed in statements saying he was the delegate of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, and that was a former Castro government official in Cuba until his defection, that Bringuier dis-guised this allegation to the de-fense possible during sworn testimony before the Warren Commission, and that although avidly dedicated to the cause of Bringuier identified himself to freedom in the Americas and the Warren Commission as a wholeheartedly a patriot of salesman and manager of the United States as evidenced Casa Dora 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 Peleaz, and the Information Coun-tilation by the story saying Bringuier's arrival in New Orleans on Feb. 10, 1961, he

Garrison to Seek Early Trial of Clay Shaw Case

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

Shaw early next week unless On other matters, Garrison Shaw's lawyers appeal a Lou- would only say "no comment" to whether his office is follow- ing closely the independent in- vestigation of the Martin Luther King assassination being con- ducted by reporter Louis E. Lomax, of the North American Newspaper Alliance.

The Louisiana Supreme Court April 23 said it would not review the denial of a change of venue ruling made by Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty. Shaw's attorneys sought to have the trial moved out of Orleans Parish.

According to law, said Gar- rison, Shaw attorneys have 14 regularities—worked for his of- days in which to ask the Lou- isiana Supreme Court to re- consider its stand. If there is no appeal, when the 14 days are up—Tuesday—Garrison said his office will immediately move to set the trial date.

"We will set the trial at the office for travel expense Ir- cited by the legislative auditor's office "for a short period." But he became indignant when time he did such work.

"I don't see the connection," said Garrison, referring to working with his office and travel expense difficulties.

Shaw Trial To Be Set Next Week

District Attorney Jim Garri- son has announced that early next week his office will set a date for the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw unless Shaw's at- torneys appeal a Louisiana Su- preme Court ruling.

The state high court said last week it would not review a de- cision by Criminal Judge Ed- ward A. Haggerty to deny a change of venue of the trial of Shaw, who is charged by the DA with participating in a conspiracy to kill the late Pres- ident 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 reconsid- er 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 Policeman Lt. Francis Fruge—cited by the leg- islative auditor for alleged trav- el expense irregularities—had worked for his office briefly.

ICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS

HALL 'MAY HELP' GARRISON CASE

Reverses Stand in JFK Probe—L.A. Times

The Los Angeles Times re- ported Wednesday that a key witness sought in District Attor- ney Jim Garrison's assassina- tion probe has reversed his po- sition and admitted that he may have information which could support the theory of a conspir- acy to murder President John F. Kennedy.

The newspaper said Loran E. Hall, who had been sub- poenaed to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in connection with the pr...e, changed his position in an appearance before Edwin Meese, California Gov. Ron- ald Reagan's legal affairs and extradition secretary.

The story was written by for- mer New Orleanian Jerry Co- hen and stated that Hall had his memory "jogged" by "cer- tain individuals" who reminded him of persons he was in con- tact with in 1963 before Kenne- dy was assassinated in Dallas.

Hall had previously insisted he knew nothing about a con- spiracy 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 gover- nor's aide a list of names of "certain individuals" reminding him of persons he met while making speeches in the Los An- geles area for raising funds for anti-Castro activities.

Hall was quoted as saying he was in touch with Meese to pro- tect 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 South- ern California in the early 1960s seeking support for anti-Castro guerillas. A former prisoner of Fidel Castro, Hall said he over- heard people discussing the pos- sibility of assassinating Kennedy and how it might be done after he finished talking at most of the meetings.

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."

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28 Los Angeles Times 24
Part I—Wed., May 1, 1963

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.

Story Studied

The Warren Commission investigation focused on Hall, but only briefly and then inconspicuously, in the very late stages of the 1964 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 29-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.

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