

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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FROM: BRANIGAN, W. A.
TO: SULLIVAN, W. C.
TITLE:

DATE: 02/23/1967

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SUBJECT: GARRISON, JAMES, BACKGROUND, COOPERATION

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COMMENTS:

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. J.P. Mohr

Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Casper	<input type="checkbox"/>
Callahan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conrad	<input type="checkbox"/>
Felt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gale	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sullivan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tavel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trotter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 2-23-67

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. J.R. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan
- 1 - Mr. C.G. Sullivan

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY NOVEMBER 22, 1963 DALLAS, TEXAS

In accordance with Mr. Tolson's instructions, there is set out herein information obtained from Bureau files identifiable with James C. Garrison, District Attorney, Orleans Parish, New Orleans, Louisiana.

BACKGROUND:

James C. Garrison was born 11-20-21, Iowa. He attended elementary and high school in New Orleans and received an LL.B degree from Tulane University in 1940. He was admitted to the Louisiana State Bar in June, 1949. He served in the U. S. Army from January, 1941, to March, 1946, both as an enlisted man and officer. He was honorably discharged. He served as a Special Agent of the FBI from March 5, 1951, resigning on July 24, 1951, to enter military service. His services were considered satisfactory.

Garrison was elected District Attorney of the Parish of Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, taking office in May, 1962. He immediately became involved in a dispute with the New Orleans Police Department over his professed desire to clean up the so-called "minor vice" in New Orleans. On November 1 and 2, 1962, the New Orleans "Times-Picayune" carried statements by Garrison charging that the parish-criminal court judges were clogging up the city jails and delaying justice by taking excessive vacation periods. Following such charges, the judges involved instituted a defamation suit against Garrison. The trial received nation-wide publicity and Garrison was found guilty on 2-6-63 of the charges and fined \$1,000. Garrison appealed his conviction and on 11-24-64 the U. S. Supreme Court reversed this conviction. The Supreme Court held that the element of deliberate malice was lacking in the statements attributed to Garrison.

DEROGATORY DATA:

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Bureau files disclose we have unsubstantiated allegations against Garrison and the office of the District Attorney

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Memorandum Branigan to Sullivan
Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

of Orleans Parish. They are set out as follows:

On 3-20-63 Aaron M. Kohn, Managing Director, Metropolitan Crime Commission, New Orleans, advised there was no indication that Garrison, as District Attorney, was involved in any illegal graft. However, on 2-28-65 Kohn said he had received information that Pershing Gervais, Chief Investigator of the New Orleans District Attorney's office, was involved in a bribery situation. Gervais was a controversial appointment of Garrison's as he had been dismissed from the New Orleans Police Department in 1950 for conduct unbecoming an officer. Both are close personal friends based on World War II military service. (62-9-33-381; 62-9-33-530)

NO 1227-C-TE advised he had been arrested in February, 1965, charged with pandering. Subsequently, on 3-18-65 he was contacted by a representative of the New Orleans District Attorney's office and told that for \$2,000 the case against him would be dropped. This source had previously advised a Louisiana State Legislator had been interceding for a well-known New Orleans madam and he learned from this madam that for \$10,000 the New Orleans District Attorney's office would not prosecute her or her prostitutes. (66-6353-2874)

On 7-27-66 NO 1439-C advised District Attorney Garrison allegedly had purchased a bar in New Orleans and set up one Jackie Lee as manager. Lee, according to the source, is a homosexual. Source also said that Garrison is known to have associated with prostitutes in New Orleans. (62-9-33-617)

NO 1390-PC advised on 10-21-66 he had learned that Carlos Marcello on at least one occasion in the past had paid round-trip air transportation for Garrison to Las Vegas, Nevada. Garrison, while in Las Vegas, stays at the Desert Inn Hotel and his bills are paid by that hotel.

Marcello is a New Orleans gambler and La Cosa Nostra hoodlum. He recently attended a meeting with twelve other hoodlums in New York City 9-22-66, which received wide-spread publicity in the New York City area. On 9-30-66 he assaulted a Special Agent of the FBI and is awaiting Federal trial on this charge.

NO 1309-C has told the New Orleans Office that Garrison is politically ambitious and plans to run for Lieutenant Governor in Louisiana during the Fall of 1967. (137-14333-5; 92-2713-437)

ACTION:

For information. ✓

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