


July 31, 1973


Mr. Jim Garrison
District Attorney
2700 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119

Dear Mr. Garrison:

In response to your letter of July 23, regarding material which you have sent to the attention of the House Judiciary Committee, please be advised that I do appreciate your courtesy in furnishing this information, and it will receive appropriate consideration.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Wright Patman 

dr

Alpha



DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
2700 TULANE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS 70119



JIM GARRISON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

July 25, 1973

Congressman Wright Patman
House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Patman:

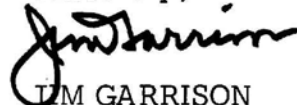
Because I think you might be interested in the subject matter, I am sending you a copy of the letter (along with exhibits) which I sent Congressman Peter Rodino, the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. I have also sent copies of the letter (with exhibits) to the other members of the House Judiciary Committee.

The subject of my letter to the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee is a prosecution initiated for political reasons by the Justice Department under then Attorney General John Mitchell. As you will note in the enclosed letter, not only did the Department improperly initiate its investigation and charges for political reasons but it engaged, to a unique extent, in a variety of improper and illegal activities -- ranging from the forced exile (to another country) of an essential potential Defense witness to the use of undue pressure upon this witness to the calculated employment of lies to the illegal and indiscriminate employment of secret electronic recording equipment. I believe that the resort to tyranny, to accomplish a political gain, by the Attorney General of the United States is a matter with which Congress might be concerned.

I have sent the enclosed letter and exhibits to the House Judiciary Committee because recently the news indicated that the Committee was about to inquire into politically-motivated prosecutions by the Justice Department. I am sending you the enclosed material because I believe you would be concerned about the resort to tyranny by a part of our government.

I hope that if you agree that my recitation of the facts describes deplorable activity by the Justice Department, that you will consider contacting acquaintances of yours who are on the Judiciary Committee and communicate your interest in an inquiry into the actions of then Attorney General Mitchell and the Justice Department.

Sincerely,



JIM GARRISON

JG: sh
Enclosures



JIM GARRISON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
2700 TULANE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS 70119



July 24, 1973

Congressman Peter W. Rodino,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

Re: United States v. Jim Garrison, et al,
United States District Court for the
Eastern District of Louisiana
Docket No. 71-530, Section "A"

Dear Congressman Rodino:

I am writing you in your capacity as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. I have read in the newspapers that the Committee is considering an investigation into whether politics has influenced the activities and decisions of the Justice Department.

In addition to being District Attorney of Orleans Parish, I happen to be a defendant in a prosecution by the Justice Department which I believe will be of interest to the House Judiciary Committee. I am presently charged with conspiracy to aid illegal pinball gambling, conspiracy to commit public bribery and a variety of related charges.

1.

The primary "undercover" agent for the government with regard to all of the charges against me -- Pershing O. Gervais -- has publicly repudiated the Justice Department's charges, has publicly stated that he was forced to lie for the government, has publicly stated that the head of the strike force committed perjury in connection with the case, has publicly stated that he was promised money by the Justice Department (\$22,000 a year, tax free), has publicly stated that the entire case of the prosecution was a farce and has publicly stated that it was clear that the government agents "only really wanted one guy and that was Jim Garrison."

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In support of my statements in the foregoing paragraph, I enclose herewith transcripts of the statements made by the government's agent, Mr. Gervais, on WWL, a local television station. In that regard, enclosed are Exhibits I (telecast at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 22nd, 1972), II (telecast at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 22nd, 1972), III (telecast at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23rd, 1972), IV (telecast at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23rd, 1972) and V (telecast at 9:30 p.m., on May 23rd, 1972). Each of these Exhibits (transcripts of statements made by Pershing Gervais on television) is slightly different from the others although the thrust of these public statements, indicating that the government's case was developed for political reasons and was developed fraudulently, essentially is similar.

In illumination of the tenor of the statements of the government's primary agent in the case, I quote herewith a portion of Exhibit I (pages 2 through 4 of the telecast made by Pershing Gervais at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 22nd, 1972):

Q. Are you saying that you were harassed into working for the Federal government?

A. That's a mild term -- harassment.

Q. Well, then what are you saying?

A. I would rather say I was forced into working for them.

Q. You were forced to work for the government?

A. But more than that, I was forced to lie for them. That's a better description.

Q. What were you forced to do?

A. Well, it became clear -- in the beginning it was obscure, it was always hints: you know what we want, you know what we're doing. Midway through this thing...

Q. Midway through what thing?

A. Through the beginning of the harassment until that time when I -- for the want of a better description -- was seduced by the

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Justice Department, you know, if I could be seduced. Somewhere in there, then it became clear that they were really interested in but one man, Jim Garrison, and in their minds they knew that I was the guy who could get him. (underlining supplied).

* * * * *

Q. Are you saying that you participated in a deliberate frame of Jim Garrison and a whole bunch of pinball executives at the direction of the Federal government?

A. Without a doubt. I'm saying that unequivocally. Now I have no chance to really prove that because, you know, I don't have to tell you what my reputation is, my background as opposed to these austere, very proper, well-reputed gentlemen of the government. They are the Justice Department. But I have one out. I insist that I take the polygraph and I insist that people like Mr. Gerald Shore, Cathy Kimbrey, a fellow named McDonald and a few other names...

Q. These are all federal agents?

A. Yes, out of Washington. That they take the polygraph. They were part and parcel of the entire farce. (underlining supplied).

2.

Upon completion of his activities as the government's agent, and at a time when the Justice Department quite apparently felt that it had "made" its case against me and my co-defendants (most of whom I neither knew nor ever had seen before), Gervais immediately was moved to Canada by the government. Arrangements were made by the Justice Department for him to live in Canada permanently.

It is important, at this point, to note that a potential witness who is outside of the country cannot be subpoenaed by the defense (underlining supplied). With Gervais having been moved out of the country by the

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Justice Department, it would have been impossible for the defense to show the improper conduct of the government (to which Gervais referred in his public statements in May, 1972) . To assure that Gervais remained in Canada -- and unavailable to defense subpoena -- the government agents did a curious thing. In a letter of contract to Gervais (sent to him care of the Justice Department in Washington, for forwarding to him in Canada) from the federal Task Force chief, John Wall, Gervais was reminded that he had to remain in Canada or else his "remittance" would stop. This contractual letter, by which the government sought to keep Gervais in Canada and unavailable to defense subpoena, is enclosed herewith as Exhibit VI. The key paragraph of the Justice Department's contract-in-exile reads:

"It was further determined on September 8th, 1971, that subsistence is paid on condition that you do not re-enter the U.S. without prior approval of the Criminal Division, and that all future payments will be cancelled and the Department of Justice will be relieved of any responsibility if this condition regarding re-entry is breached."

3.

In order to encourage Gervais to remain in Canada, beyond reach of defense subpoena, Justice Department agents obtained for him a "job" in Vancouver at General Motors of Canada. The "job" did not require any serious work on his part, although he dropped by General Motors of Canada for several hours a week. For this, Gervais received a "salary" of \$18,000 from General Motors plus an additional \$4,000 a year from the Justice Department -- to add up to the \$22,000 a year which the government had promised him for his cooperation (see statements of Gervais in Exhibits I through V) .

To further encourage Gervais -- who by then was living in Canada under the name of "Paul Mason" (making it impossible for the defense to locate him) -- to remain outside of the United States, agents of the Justice Department arranged for the forgery of fraudulent birth certificates for Gervais' children, so that they would be able to attend Canadian schools under the false name of "Mason." (Copies of the fraudulent birth certificates, executed by Justice Department agents, are in the custody of my attorneys, F. Lee Bailey and Mark Kadish, 1 Center Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts) .

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4.

The Justice Department's Task Force supervisor in charge of the New Orleans investigation was agent John Wall. It was Mr. Wall who wrote Gervais the contractual letter, in behalf of the government, requiring that he remain in Canada under peril of losing his "remittance" if he returned to the United States (where he would be available for subpoena by the defense). Recently, agent Wall resigned from the Justice Department and entered private practice. The Wall Street Journal of June 19th, 1973, recently quoted a comment from former agent Wall:

"I am ashamed to have been associated with this administration", says John Wall, formerly head of the Strike Force in New Orleans and now a private lawyer. "There was a time when a career with the Justice Department was all I wanted in life, but the feeling I've had over the last couple of years was that everybody could be bought for a price."

In the subject case, it is quite apparent that the Justice Department tried to buy its primary undercover agent, Mr. Gervais, for \$22,000 a year -- as we know by the public statements of Gervais. This effort to force Mr. Gervais to work for the government, and even to try to get him to lie in behalf of the Justice Department, included extreme pressure in the form of an extensive income tax investigation of him -- leaving him with the alternative of being hit with a pretty heavy stick if he did not accept the \$22,000 Canadian carrot and help Mr. John Mitchell's Department to "get Garrison." However, Mr. Gervais -- like Mr. Wall -- became ashamed of his association with the Justice Department. Like Mr. Wall, Mr. Gervais broke loose -- or tried to break loose -- from the "Dirty Tricks" operation of the Justice Department (although it remains to be seen whether he will be able to resist any further pressure on him to get back in line prior to the trial).

While Mr. Wall's disenchantment appears to have been on more general grounds, Mr. Gervais' disenchantment was the direct consequence of

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the Justice Department's fraudulent and strong-armed conduct in this particular case (See public statements of the government's contracted agent, Pershing Gervais, in Exhibits I through V) .

5.

I come now to the political aspect of this rather unusual Justice Department project. I cannot lay claim, as of this writing, to the honor of having my name inscribed upon the Executive Department's "enemy" list (although I am still hopeful that I yet may be so honored, inasmuch as the entire "enemy" list has not been made public) .

In any case, I confess to being a politically active Democrat. Moreover, I admit also my overt participation in helping to elect a Democratic Governor in two successive elections. I also have been active in recent years, in helping to elect other Democrats to office in Louisiana. Needless to say, my capability to help elect any Democrat to office has been reduced virtually to zero since the Justice Department charged me two years ago, so the actions of the Department -- however improper and violative of the Constitution they have been -- were not unproductive from the point of view of the present Administration. At least one Democratic official who had been criticizing the Administration's Justice Department was silenced, for all practical purposes, well before the national Presidential election. I will touch upon my public criticism of Mr. Mitchell's Justice Department in a little more detail below.

Perhaps I should add that, although the Justice Department charged and arrested me two years ago, the case has not yet been tried. It is presently set for trial in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana next month, on August 20th. This trial setting, for a trial which seems likely to last several months (inasmuch as nine men, who presumably owned pin-ball machines, are lumped together with me as co-defendants), happens to be arriving during the same month as the formal qualification for candidates in the election for District Attorney. This means that I will be able to enjoy the novelty of campaigning for re-election as District Attorney while sitting as a defendant in an extended federal court trial.

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6.

There is another political aspect to this prosecution which also should be touched upon. It will be recalled that the government's major undercover agent publicly has stated that the Justice Department agents repeatedly indicated to him that their objective was to "get Garrison."

In that regard, it should be pointed out that I have been a strong, public critic of the Justice Department for some years, primarily because of what I regard as its obvious and inexcusable failure to investigate effectively the shootings of President John F. Kennedy, Reverend Martin Luther King, Senator Robert Kennedy and, more recently, Governor George Wallace. I characterized, accurately in my regard, the Justice Department's failure to inquire aggressively into these significant political assaults (and its bland acceptance of the proffered scapegoats) as being tantamount to making it an accessory-after-the-fact in these crimes. These speeches of mine were made at a variety of Colleges from California to Massachusetts (although, I might add, my invitations to make such talks, wherein I had the opportunity to publicly criticize the Justice Department drastically declined after it filed its charges against me two years ago).

During the course of my speeches and public statements criticizing the Justice Department, the Attorney General of the United States was Mr. John N. Mitchell. The basic thrust of my speeches and public statements was that President Kennedy's assassination was initiated by elements of the Executive Department of the government -- the war-making sector, in particular -- because of his 1963 conflict with the military with regard to South East Asian foreign policy and because of his 1963 decision to initiate a withdrawal of American forces from Viet Nam. I systematically pointed out that the bureaucracy of the Justice Department had been used on a continuing basis to conceal the facts and the ideological nature of this and the subsequent political assassinations through the Dealey Plaza-Watergate Inquiry decade. It had been my custom in these criticisms to emphasize that, even with regard to inadequately investigated political assassinations of past years, every new day that passed in which the Justice Department continued to withhold information from the American people (as in the extreme example of the assassination of President Kennedy) constituted a continued participation by the Department in the crime of being an Accessory-After-the-Fact.

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The reply of Mr. Mitchell's Justice Department to my public charges that it was continuing to commit a real offense was to charge me with a fanciful offense -- although its counter-attack has been given the veneer of validity by the veneration with which the local U.S. Attorney and the U.S. District Judge view the charges (and by their corresponding disinterest in the patently illegal methods employed by Mr. Mitchell's Criminal Division -- then headed by Mr. Will Wilson -- in "constructing" the case).

Also relevant to the apparent political posture, with regard to me, of the Justice Department under Attorney General Mitchell would appear to be the following criticism of that Department in my book, "A Heritage of Stone", which was published by G. P. Putnam's Sons (New York, 1970). On pages 192 and 193 I had written:

"Historically, when a coup d'etat is successful the force which initiated the removal of the fallen leader becomes the dominant force in the government. The fact that a government department bears the euphemistic label of Justice does not mean that overnight it will turn into a suicide battalion. As in the case of all other agencies, its leaders respond not to a dead man buried in a box but to the newly dominant forces. Their slogan becomes: 'The king is dead. Long live the new king.'

"Consequently, there occurs the phenomenon in which the 'Justice' Department and other government agencies devote their efforts, not to bringing out the truth about the assassination, but to concealing it and counter-attacking those who do seek the truth. When the subsequent assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy would occur, the Justice Department would be announcing the absence of conspiracy as the bodies hit the ground."

My book, in which this criticism of the Justice Department appeared, was officially released in New York in November, 1970, although galley proofs and advance copies thereof were available well before then. It also might be added that the book was copyrighted prior to November.

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However, as I have noted, the official release of my book occurred in November, 1970. It is, to my knowledge, the only book thus far published which charges the Justice Department of the United States with having been derelict in failing adequately to investigate the series of political assassinations and with being ready, when called upon, to continue its essentially criminal conduct. In November, 1970 -- some weeks after I had received my advance copies of the book -- then Attorney General John Mitchell signed the authorization for employing electronic eavesdropping equipment, to be worn by Pershing Gervais, in order secretly to record conversations with me, as well as with other defendants. (It is to be noted that these recordings, secretly made for the government by the electronic equipment worn by Mr. Gervais, turned out to be "inaudible" in critical areas of my conversations with Gervais -- a defect which has been sought to be cured by the "notes" taken by Justice Department agents monitoring them and which was sought to be reinforced by sending Mr. Gervais out of the country and requiring him to stay there so that he could not be subpoenaed as a witness for the defense.) Under the federal interpretations, thus far operative, relative to secret consent-recordings by the government in "conspiracy" cases -- such as the subject case is claimed to be by the Justice Department, the content of the recordings can be described to the jury by federal agents and without the need for the presence at the trial of the consenting-party who was wearing the secret electronic equipment. Hence, the advantage sought to be gained by the Justice Department in requiring Mr. Gervais to leave the country and change his name, until given permission by the government to return. This would seem to be a self-operating device, all too useful to prosecutions of alleged conspirators under Mr. Mitchell's Omnibus Crime Act, which should be augmented by legislation permitting defendants to be confronted by their ostensible accusers.

7.

After Gervais had completed his "undercover" work for the government and had made the move to Canada, he received a long distance phone call from a Justice Department agent who informed him that the Attorney General of the United States (then John N. Mitchell) extended to Gervais his personal thanks for, in effect, a job well done. It is to be noted that at the time then Attorney General John Mitchell sent his personal message of thanks to Mr. Gervais, the latter by then had been moved to

Congressman Peter W. Rodino

Canada where he was living -- permanently, as it was intended -- under the new name established for him by the government -- so it would appear unlikely that the Attorney General of the United States, at the time of expressing this personal gratification, was unaware of the new precedent for exile of possible witnesses which the Justice Department had just established. (Gervais recorded this message from the Justice Department agent and a copy of this recording presently is in the custody of my attorneys, F. Lee Bailey and Mark Kadish) .

8.

The illegal and improper use of hidden electronic eavesdropping machinery by the Justice Department surely has established this case as a classic in the misuse of the might of a powerful centralized government bent upon disciplining, and eliminating, the impertinent and offending individual. The penchant, in recent years, of the Executive Branch for the employment of secret taping devices undoubtedly is well known by now to members of Congress .

In this case, the so-called "authorization" for secret electronic surveillance of me and the others, who ultimately were charged with me, was signed in November, 1970, by then Attorney General John Mitchell. There was no authorizing court order. Nevertheless, Mr. Mitchell's unilateral "authorization" was enough to encourage the Justice Department's New Orleans "Task Force" to embark upon an orgy of secret wire-tapping, some instances of which constituted plainly improper and unconscionable invasions of the privacy not only of the target individuals but of family members and other persons as well. As one example, an extensive secret taping by the government of a long conversation between its prime agent in the operation and my wife was recorded, typed up and printed at the government's Task Force headquarters here -- even though my wife was not included on the list of persons whom then Attorney General Mitchell had authorized to be secretly taped.

The unilateral authorization by the Attorney General for electronic surveillance of a specified group of citizens, because

Congressman Peter W. Rodino

one of the citizens had been a vociferous critic of the Justice Department and because election year -- 1972 -- was approaching and it was desired that such criticism be stalled, certainly was questionable and improper use of his power, even by the most charitable appraisal. However, for agents of the Justice Department to use such "authorization" as carte blanche to go beyond the named target subjects and arbitrarily secretly tape the conversations of members of their families surely goes beyond the bounds of all possible legality, of claims of investigative relevance, and makes it increasingly difficult to distinguish the operations of our Justice Department from similar activities of totalitarian countries.

Understandably, the Justice Department agents were stimulated by the special power given them by the Attorney General to conduct secret electronic surveillance and undoubtedly they were most anxious to "make a case" against the designated target individuals. As a former Special Agent for the F.B.I. (and, therefore, as a former agent of the Justice Department), I am familiar with the syndrome which develops at the operational level when it becomes apparent that the development of a "case" against target individuals is particularly desired by the Attorney General of the United States. As a matter of fact, this particular "Special effort" syndrome is still manifested, with regard to the present case, by the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana and the District Judge to whose section this case has been assigned, each of whom has demonstrated that he is monumentally indifferent to the accumulation of blatantly illegal and improper government actions ranging from forcing an individual to lie in the government's behalf (See Exhibits I through V) to forcing a potential witness for the Defense to remain out of the country (See contract-of-exile, Exhibit VI) to the patently illegal obtaining of secret tapings of statements, personal in nature and quite unrelated to the thrust of the government's case, made by my wife.

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I might add that the secret government taping of my wife was accomplished by leading her into conversation which included discussion concerning alleged extra-marital romances and embarrassing matters. I doubt that the Justice Department will be introducing into trial this particular accomplishment of its investigation inasmuch as one of the complaints expressed by my wife, unaware that her statements were being monitored by the United States government, was the fact that I would not accept money sought to be offered to me. Rather, it quite apparently is the government's game plan to present selective portions of their electronic recordings so as to make it appear that the opposite is the case. In any event, the fact that the Department of Justice subsequently may decide not to add this particular taping session to presumably more usable products of its electronic surveillance does not undo the fact that here agents of the Justice Department knowingly and wilfully deprived me and my family of our Constitutional right to freedom from unauthorized intrusion into our personal privacy. Government agents, hiding in the next room, electronically recorded the conversation, subsequently -- as I have mentioned -- having it typed up and duplicated. It is to be noted that this governmental electronics surveillance did not have even the authorization of the White House janitor, much less the questionable unilateral authorization of Attorney General Mitchell. Nevertheless, this illegal invasion of the privacy of my family by the government was extremely successful. As a result of this pre-Watergate caper of Executive Department agents, operating under the benign influence of Attorney General (soon to be Campaign Manager) John Mitchell, I became separated from my wife and five children -- and am still separated. The power of a broad-based government enterprise involving electronic surveillance of citizens is a formidable thing, invariably producing for the government by-products of harassment and discipline and complications, for those who happen to be on a high official's enemy list, far in excess of the initial rationalization -- invariably couched in terms of virtuous necessity -- for the secret tape-recording operation.

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9.

I hope that the herein-described employment of domestic espionage techniques against American citizens and the heavy-handed utilization of "dirty tricks" activity by government agents (apparently an early fore-runner of the series of unconscionable enterprises which ultimately culminated in the Watergate complex of adventures) will arouse more interest in Congress, in general -- and in the Judiciary Committee, in particular -- than has been aroused in the mind of the U.S. Attorney, who is prosecuting this "case" and in the mind of the U.S. District Judge who has set it for trial during my re-election campaign and who has indicated not the slightest interest or curiosity in the misbehavior of the Justice Department and its ravages of the United States Constitution in this matter.

As another example of the undue and disproportionate enterprise of that Department in creating this alleged conspiracy case (in the course of which undertaking it actually entered the business of initiating and creating the subject "conspiracy" itself), I should point out that I never, at any time, during the course of the alleged illegal activity, sought out Mr. Gervais, whom the government forced to instigate the structure of activities seeming -- in artfully presented retrospect -- to constitute a conspiracy. As it happened, I was bed-ridden -- as the consequence of a rather extensive hospital staphylococcus infection following a spinal operation -- and in no condition to seek out anyone. Consequently, the Justice Department -- in order to draw me into seeming conspiratorial activity -- was forced to have Mr. Gervais, its prime agent in its conspiracy to depict a conspiracy, repeatedly seek me out at my bedside.

When is a conspiracy not a conspiracy? I suggest that it is when every action of the alleged operation is developed

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not by alleged conspirators but by agents of the government itself. In such a case -- and this is the case at hand -- the alleged conspirators are nothing less than victims of the craft and guile and amorality of unconfined federal power and of a Justice Department which, in an excess of zeal, becomes itself the entrepreneur and, in consequence, becomes itself the central, catalytic conspirator.

Because, with regard to my own volition and choice of actions, I was making no contribution whatsoever to the Great Southern pinball machine conspiracy, the government found it necessary to require its prime "undercover agent" to seek me out on each occasion. In the years immediately prior to the development of this tableau by the government I had seen Mr. Gervais only two or three times a year, chance encounters as the result of a long friendship, originating in our Army service together, but nevertheless essentially a casual friendship because of the rarity of occasions when we encountered each other.

Now, suddenly in late 1970 and early 1971, Mr. Gervais was sent in, to my bedside, to draw me into responses which the government subsequently intended to present as illegal activity on my part. On none of these occasions did I ever request Mr. Gervais to come visit me. On each of these occasions he was dispatched to my bedside by agents of the government, who (as revealed in his public statements on television, the transcripts of which are included herewith as Exhibits I through V) had exerted the most extreme pressures on him.

This probably constitutes the ultimate in service provided by the federal government: if you happen to be bed-ridden and unable to engage in commission of a crime, the Justice Department is willing to send a man to you, to provide him with professional advisors and equipment, and to handle all the details for you. You don't have to initiate any contacts of any kind. You don't have to move a muscle. You don't even have to leave your house -- at least, not until the day the

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federal marshals arrive to arrest you for your aggressive criminality. A pre-fabricated crime is delivered right to your domicile. All you have to do is be laying there.

The moral would seem to be that no matter where you are, if the Executive Department wants you it is going to get you. And if you cannot leave your house to commit a crime which it wants you to commit, then it will bring the crime through your front door and lay it on your lap. Without ever having contacted Gervais nor any of the potential co-defendants -- and this is a matter of record in the government's prosecution files -- and without ever having climbed out of bed, I managed to end up being charged on four counts relative to conspiracy and pinball gambling. Under these conditions, one can't be assured of being safe from the long arm of the Justice Department even if one is underneath his bed, much less in it.

After several initial visits to re-establish a relationship which had lapsed with the passage of time, the government's coerced emissary then began making his government-initiated visits with transmitting eavesdropping equipment concealed on his person -- as authorized, presuming such electronic intrusions still legally can be authorized, by the unilateral order of the then guardian of our liberties, Attorney General John Mitchell.

During these gratuitous visits to me (rather chaotically recorded on the hidden taping equipment but nevertheless, in obvious compensation therefor, imaginatively interpreted by the government), as many as seven federal agents were concealed outside the dwelling into which they had sent their hostage to federal power, while they listened to their radio receivers and noted down their interpretation of the massive conspiracy presumably being given birth by the broadcasting from my bed. In point of fact, whatever term one uses to describe the activity then underway, it was an activity initiated not by me -- nor by any of the co-defendants -- but quite transparently an activity initiated and advanced in every regard by the Executive Department of the United States Government.

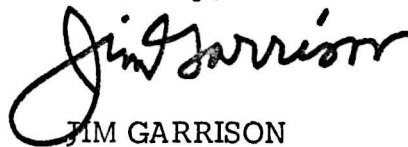
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I have described in this letter the salient features of a case in which the Justice Department, under then Attorney General John Mitchell, for political reasons initiated an investigation -- to employ a euphemism -- and subsequently initiated a criminal prosecution. Necessarily, I have described the circumstances from my point of view because I am not acquainted with the other defendants. However, it would appear to follow that the politically motivated actions undertaken against me by the government necessarily were politically motivated, with regard to origin, as to the co-defendants who have been charged with me in order to complete the government-constructed tableau of a "conspiracy." While I would not retract my public criticisms, made during recent years, of the Justice Department of the United States for what I regard as its indefensible and historic misconduct in systematically concealing the facts of the assassination -- and attempted assassination -- of national leaders, I regret that other men unconnected with my personal commitment of recent years have to share the harassment and discipline which the Executive Department of the government obviously intended for me.

In any case, I hope some of the information supplied here will be of some use with regard to any possible inquiry of politically oriented prosecutions by the Justice Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Garrison", written in a cursive style.

JIM GARRISON

JG:sh
Enclosures

TRANSCRIPT OF WWL-TV NEWS EXCLUSIVE TELECAST AT 5:00 P.M. ON MONDAY,
MAY 22, 1972.

Q - ROSEMARY JAMES

A - PERSHING GERVAIS

RON HUNTER: Good evening, everyone. A big story breaking tonight. The chief witness against Jim Garrison, Pershing Gervais -- the man who was the chief witness now had a change of heart and a change of story and that story comes to us tonight from British Columbia. Rosemary James was there -- we'll have it in a little while....Headlining tonight's news less than a year ago District Attorney Jim Garrison, seven New Orleans area pinball operators and two high-ranking policemen were arrested by Federal agents in connection with the pinball scandals. It was alleged that Garrison and the policemen had accepted bribes from the pinball operators. And the chief witness for the Justice Department in the case was Pershing Gervais, former chief investigator for Garrison who acted as a go-between for the alleged bribes. Well Gervais disappeared a day before the arrests were made. Reports said that he had moved his family to a foreign country for safety. Last week Channel 4's Rosemary James trailed Pershing Gervais to that foreign country, to Vancouver, British Columbia, in Canada, to be exact. There in an extensive interview lasting over four days Gervais made some startling statements. He claimed that it was the Justice Department who made him leave town and that his participation in the case amounted to entrapment of the pinball operators and that he has been living with a lie. Here now is Rosemary James with that story.

ROSEMARY JAMES: Towasan is a quiet Canadian residential community located on the site of an old indian village, 35 miles from the heart of Vancouver, British Columbia. It's peaceful here. The homes are perched against a backdrop of blue mountain skies and green trees which part occasionally to reward you with a glimpse of the sea. The neighborhood is one where kids and dogs can romp. It's one where pride in home ownership is obvious is the well-tended lawns and gardens. It's a place where most families would like to live -- if it were home. For a controversial New Orleans figure, Pershing Gervais, and his family -- an attractive wife, two fun-loving kids,

eight show quality Yorkshire terriers, a momma cat and three tiny kittens, Towasan has been an exile. It has never been home. Here they have lived under assumed names, those of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mason and family. It all came about when Gervais went to work as an undercover agent for the Justice Department. When his work resulted in the arrest last June of D.A. Jim Garrison, a group of New Orleans pinball operators and a couple of cops. Today Paul Mason and family are once again against Gervais. They are giving up the peaceful life of Canada. They are packing to come home to New Orleans. In an exclusive interview with WWL conducted here in British Columbia over a four-day period, inside and out, on camera and off, Pershing Gervais and his family has insisted to us that not only has their life here been a lie but that the case built by Gervais against Garrison and crowd for the government was and is a deliberate fraud.

- Q. What are you doing here in Canada instead of the United States?
- A. Well, I guess it could best be described as I'm here at the convenience of the government -- whatever that really means. I'm not really sure now.
- Q. Can you give me a clue?
- A. Well, of course, it started off, their attitude was it was to protect me and my family.
- Q. Protect you and your family from what?
- A. From bodily harm. But what we really needed was protection from the Justice Department.
- Q. Let's start from the beginning. How did you get involved with the government?
- A. Well, you know, my mind's a little muddled about it. It started with constant, calculated harassment.
- Q. Are you saying that you were harassed into working for the Federal government?

- A. That's a mild term -- harassment.
- Q. Well, then what are you saying?
- A. I would rather say I was forced into working for them.
- Q. You were forced to work for the government.
- A. But more than that, I was forced to lie for them. That's a better description.
- Q. What were you forced to do?
- A. Well, it became clear -- in the beginning it was obscure, it was always hints, you know what we want, you know what we're doing. Midway through this thing...
- Q. Midway through what thing?
- A. Through the beginning of the harassment until that time where I -- for the want of a better description -- was seduced by the Justice Department, you know, if I could be seduced. Somewhere in there, then it became clear that they were really interested in but one man, Jim Garrison, and in their minds they knew that I was the guy who could get him.
- Q. Are you saying that you got him?
- A. Oh, yeah, no question about that, sure, sure.
- Q. Now when you say that you went to work for the government what sort of work did you do?
- A. Well, it was, you see it's entrapping people.
- Q. What people?
- A. Pinball operators.
- Q. And who else?
- A. And Jim Garrison.
- Q. Are you saying that you participated in a deliberate frame of Jim Garrison and a whole bunch of pinball executives at the direction of the Federal government?

A. Without a doubt, I'm saying that unequivocally. Now I have no chance to really prove that because, you know, I don't have to tell you what my reputation is, my background as opposed to these austere, very proper, well-reputationed gentlemen of the government. They are the Justice Department. But I have one out. I insist that I take the polygraph and I insist that people like Mr. Gerald Shore, Cathy Kimbrey, a fellow named McDonald and a few other names...

Q. These are all federal agents?

A. Yes, out of Washington. That they take the polygraph. That they were part and parcel of the entire farce.

ROSEMARY JAMES: Whether the United States Justice Department likes it or not Pershing Gervais and his family are coming home. From British Columbia, this is ROSEMARY JAMES, Channel 4 news.

TRANSCRIPT OF WWL-TV EXCLUSIVE TELECAST AT 6:00 P.M. ON MONDAY,
MAY 22, 1972.

Q - ROSEMARY JAMES

A - PERSHING GERVAIS

ROSEMARY JAMES: ...federal agents testified that Gervais was offered nothing, promised nothing, given nothing in return for his cooperation with the government. During interviews conducted last week with Gervais in Vancouver, Gervais said that they -- the Justice Department -- not only offered him a lot, they threatened him with jail if he did not cooperate. Gervais said after he became convinced that he would go to jail if he did not work for the government he decided to become the government's undercover man.

Q. Did the government offer you anything, did they promise you anything?

A. How many years do you know me, darling?

Q. Ten.

A. Ten. Do you think that I would do everything that I did for nothing, for absolutely nothing? I never did anything for nothing in my whole life.

Q. Now, you said when you left New Orleans...

A. That's why I was such a darling to the government, because I always knew what to say. I know what they want me to say. Mind you, remember, the agents that threatened me, the agents that lied to me, the agents that promised, were never, ever a part of the agents who did the work. These poor fellows really believe they did a sincere, honest job. It's a pretty good system.

Q. Well, let's take John Wall, head of the strike force. He got up in open court and said under oath that the federal government had offered you nothing, promised you nothing, given you nothing. Are you saying he perjured himself?

A. How in the hell did I get to Canada?

Q. I don't know. Tell me how you got here.

A. They paid every goddamn nickle of it. That's how I got here. Do you think I would have paid for it? I've got the most ridiculous, the softest job in America.

Q. What kind of job do you have?

A. That's hard to describe.

Q. Who do you work for?

A. General Motors.

Q. Of Canada?

A. Yeah.

Q. How did you get the job?

A. The Justice Department got it. And that is the most interesting story. I get \$18,000 from General Motors. The government makes it up with four more thousand.

Q. They, the government directly gives you \$4,000 a month?

A. A year.

Q. I mean, a year, I'm sorry.

A. Yeah, and not only that, but tax free. But that's not so good. Before I left New Orleans they guaranteed me unequivocally, unequivocally \$22,000 a year, tax free. That's a whole lot of...

Q. Now what is your situation...

A. Well, now I gotta pay money on, listen, like everything about the Justice Department, it was a lie. You see. I pay more tax here on this \$18,000 than I would pay on \$22,000 stateside. But everything, there is not a single thing that the Justice Department said to me, not one, that was true. Now, again, I can't win against the Justice Department and the courts, I know that, my family knows it. Let me say something, this morning my family was -- I've never seen them so happy.

Q. Why?

A. Because I'm doing what I'm doing. They know what I'm doing. Not only that, corny as it might be, I've never seen my daughter look at me with the kind of pride that she did this morning. You know, this is corny and it's

not in my character, but I saw it. Because she knows about the lies. Listen, they brought a lady from Washington down to lie to my daughter.

Q. What did they promise your daughter and your wife?

A. Awww, they promised them Utopia.

ROSEMARY JAMES: We will be bringing you more news experts, excuse me, excerpts from these interviews and tomorrow night at 9:30 we will present an half hour documentary on Pershing Gervais and his family. Ron?

RON HUNTER: Thank you, Rosemary. And you'll want to know that United States Attorney Gerald Gallinghouse who has handled the Garrison prosecution here in New Orleans had only one terse statement tonight in reply to the revelations by Gervais. He said, and we quote, "The law and court rules do not allow us to comment on pending cases".

TRANSCRIPT OF WWL-TV, CHANNEL 4, EXCLUSIVE TELECAST OF TUESDAY,
MAY 23, 1972, 5:00 P.M.

Q - ROSEMARY JAMES

A - PERSHING GERVAIS

ROSEMARY JAMES: Throughout the interviews with Gervais he referred to a man named Gerald Shore, a man he described as a Justice Department agent working out of Washington and his prime contact with the government. According to Gervais, Shore had promised his family they could move to the Caribbean, Europe or preferably Australia and that it ended up Vancouver. Gervais said Shore arranged interviews with him with executives of a major American oil company and that after some negotiating it was decided that he would go to work for this oil company in Canada in the capacity that amounted to spying on the Canadian government. Gervais said that all of a sudden shortly before Garrison's arrest, the government wanted him out of the country pronto and when he actually got to Vancouver things were not the way they were supposed to be.

PERSHING GERVAIS: And Shore said go up into the Marinas of Nova Scotia and then casually take your time and drive all across Canada, see Canada.

Q. Who was paying for all this?

A. They paid for it. They paid for it at the rate of \$73 a day.

Q. I mean they were giving you the cash?

A. Oh, yeah, cash money.

Q. All right, so you got to Vancouver and what happened?

A. Well, of course, in between somewhere I learned what my job was to be.

Q. For this oil company?

A. For the oil company. It's a strange thing. My job was to in effect investigate, or spy on or determine why it was that this oil company was not accorded certain privileges in Canada by the Canadian government that other oil companies...

Q. Like drilling privileges?

A. Drilling privileges, precisely, was one of them. For some reason.

Q. This company was denied these privileges?

A. By the Canadian government and ...

Q. They wanted you to spy on...

A. On the Canadian...whoever that part of the Canadian government that determines these things. I never did learn because it ultimately...

Q. They actually want you to spy on the Canadian government in the employ of an American oil company?

A. Right. Along with the connivance of the Justice Department.

Q. In other words...

A. They will deny this, you can bet. But they won't get on a polygraph and deny it. But let me just point something to you. So with the connivance of the Justice Department, this American oil company they sent me into Canada to investigate in effect the Canadian government, to spy on them if I could. They thought I could do it. Once I arrived in Vancouver in September, I was trying to get my furniture and, of course, they stalled me. The Justice Department stalled.

Q. What do you mean they stalled?

A. They didn't -- they stalled getting my furniture to me, I wanted my furniture. See. And they stalled me so bad and began to tell me so many lies -- they had been telling me lies, little by little it became apparent...

Q. What did it boil down to, that you didn't have a job?

A. That's, well...

- Q. That you didn't have a job with this oil company?
- A. They said the oil company changed their mind, that they were afraid to hire me because they were afraid that in spite of the assurances to the contrary by the Justice Department that perhaps I may be forced to testify in the upcoming trials of the pinball people and Jim Garrison and there it would come out what my function was. And they couldn't afford this. Now this was Shore's, Gerry Shore's message to me.
- Q. It was later Gervais said that the government got him the job with General Motors of Canada, after Gervais refused to move his family another mile. This is Rosemary James Channel 4 news.

TRANSCRIPT OF WWL-TV, CHANNEL 4, EXCLUSIVE TELECAST OF TUESDAY,
MAY 23, 1972, at 6:00 P.M.

Q - ROSEMARY JAMES

A - PERSHING GERVAIS

RON HUNTER: PERSHING GERVAIS who said he deliberately framed Jim Garrison and pinball operators for the federal government...while Gervais would not say exactly how he framed these men, he did say flatly that the government's case is a fraud that he constructed. What probably has most people guessing is the question of why he changed his story. Rosemary James reports.

ROSEMARY JAMES: Possibly the thing puzzling most people in the strange case of Pershing Gervais and his changing story is the question of motivation. As he tells you in no uncertain terms himself, he's never done anything for nothing. Seeing how unhappy his family was in Canada tells you a lot about why he wants to come home. Why he left in the first place, he insists, is an answer for the polygraph machine since its his word against the government's.

PERSHING GERVAIS: No one, in the history of my lifetime, ever heard of me doing anything for anybody _____ motivation. I'm just not that kind of cat.

Q. Now Jim Garrison used to be a friend of yours. Are you saying that you deliberately set out to frame him for a profit motive?

A. Well, depending on what you're going to define profit.

Q. Well, now ...

A. (inaudible)

Q. Well just what did the federal government do?

A. Not just profit because this has made me very uncomfortable.

Q. Well, personal profit whether money or otherwise.

A. Yeah, correct, right, right, because I was convinced I was going to jail. This I can prove without a polygraph.

Q. You were convinced that they were going to send you to jail.

A. They were going to send me to jail and I was convinced, no uncertain terms, that they were going to...

Q. On what charge?

A. I was never told. I have no idea of what kind of charge.

Q. You have any tax problems?

A. Now whether you...bottom dollar...

Q. You have any tax problems?

A. None, zero, zonk.

Q. Didn't have any Swiss bank accounts or anything like that?

A. I wish I did, darling. I wish I did. Only government people get those things, you know, and their friends -- I mean high level government.

Q. Well what did the government give you in return for helping them in their investigation?

A. Well, we would become friends.

Q. You and the government?

A. After you've been harassed with direct threats, no baloney about it, you become friends. That's considerable consideration

Q. There was, of course, the alleged promise of \$22,000 a year, tax free, and that, of course, is once again a matter of his word against the U.S. Department of Justice's word. And there are other questions for the lie detector, too.

A. When polygraph time comes, if it comes, a question I'm quite willing to submit to is Jim Garrison has never, ever, ever fixed a case for me. Not ever.

Q. How about some of his assistants?

A. That's another question.

Q. Are you willing to submit to that?

A. I ain't willing to submit to too many things but those are things I'm willing to submit.

ROSEMARY JAMES: Right now it's just Pershing Gervais' word just Jim Garrison says he's not yet ready to comment and since the Justice Department is saying in effect "no comment". This is ROSEMARY JAMES, Channel 4 news.

RON HUNTER: ...against Jim Garrison, Tom Kennelly, formerly with the Justice Department says Gervais volunteered to be a witness, no strings attached. Kennelly said that Gervais was grieving over a son killed in Vietnam and became an informer as a way of making amends for the boy.

TRANSCRIPT OF CHANNEL 4, WWL-TV, EXCLUSIVE TELECAST OF TUESDAY,
MAY 23, 1972, AT 9:30 P.M.

Q - ROSEMARY JAMES

A - PERSHING GERVAIS

PHIL JOHNSON: The program you are about to see is a remarkably candid interview of Pershing Gervais, a man of many faces and many loyalties, who is the federal government's chief witness in the pinball bribery case against District Attorney Jim Garrison and several pinball operators. Now this station cannot vouch for the truth and the accuracy in what Mr. Gervais says. It's a matter of his word against someone else's. But we believe that what he says is important. Important enough that you, the public, should know about it.

ROSEMARY JAMES: You were forced to work for the government?

PERSHING GERVAIS: But more than that I was forced to lie for them. That's a better description.

Q. What were you forced to do?

A. Well, it became clear -- in the beginning it was obscure, it was always hints, you know what we want, you know what we're doing, see? Midway through the thing...

Q. Midway through what thing?

A. Through the beginning of the harassment until that time where, for the want of a better description, was seduced by the Justice Department -- if I could be seduced. Somewhere in there, then it became clear that they were really interested in but one man, Jim Garrison, and in their minds they knew that I was the guy who could get him.

Q. Are you saying that you got him?

A. Oh, yeah, no question about that.

ROSEMARY JAMES: This is Vancouver, British Columbia, a picture postcard city that no picture postcard can ever really capture. It's a place that has plenty of what Canada is most famous for -- scenery. This sprawling metropolis is a place where man's towers of glass and steel compete in a losing battle with God's architecture. A place where the mighty ships of the world seem but puny toys against the background of snow-topped mountains falling sharply away to the sea. A place where one man's famous phobias and another man's changing story important as they might be seem unreal in the real world of nature at her finest. Vancouver goes out of her way to entertain you with outdoor sports, especially on the water and in the mountains, with night life, with food, with genuine hospitality, if entertainment is what you have on your mind. Vancouver is a big city, however, with a cosmopolitan mixture of people, Canadians, Americans, British, French and Orientals -- people who will leave you alone if that's what you have on your mind. And to some, Vancouver spells privacy. The mysterious Howard Hughes, for instance, whose hunger not to be seen or known titillates the American public, has taken up residence at Vancouver right here at the Bay Shore Inn on the top floor of the hotel's exclusive tower wing. Or at least he's believed to be up there. Nobody ever actually sees him or tries to. Even the hotel managers only assume he's up there. On the other hand, the very privacy that the very private Mr. Hughes craves and is given in Vancouver is one factor that has turned this garden spot of the rugged mountains and the rugged weather into an awful place of exile for a controversial New Orleanian, Pershing Gervais -- known here by the name of Paul Mason. Just under a year ago, undercover work for the federal government done by Pershing Gervais resulted in the arrest of D.A. Jim Garrison and a potful of cops and pinball operators on charges of bribery and illegal gambling. That work also put Gervais and his family in Canada, with new names, a new home and a new life faraway from friends and prying defense lawyers. Right now Gervais has had about all of this privacy that he can stand. A privacy he said he sought for his family. A privacy he said he sought and bought at the price of framing his former friend, Jim Garrison.

Q. What are you doing here out of the United States?

- A. Well, at the government's direction, for their convenience, I would think. Of course, they like to pretend that it's to protect me and my family from violence but I think the primary purpose really is to keep me out of the reach of defense subpoenas.
- Q. Well now, exactly when did you decide to come here?
- A. I didn't decide to come here. They decided here. When we were in the talking stage, my preference really was Australia and, of course, it's a long, long story from there to here.
- Q. Now, the government wanted you to leave New Orleans.
- A. Yes, they did. Of course, you see, it has to do with the mechanics of the case because when I first became involved with the government it was never, ever supposed to come to this point.
- Q. Now, when you say when you first became involved with the government, what do you mean by that? Let's start from the beginning.
- A. Okay. It's common knowledge, of course, everybody knows how the government operates, particularly the Justice Department. They so love to refer to themselves as Justice. Never the Justice Department. It was a long program of harassment.
- Q. What do you mean by harassment?
- A. Oh, Jesus, they sent agents to every human being I ever did business with, all over the United States -- my insurance company, my bank, a little fellow I bought a little piece of property from, just everywhere. They sent agents to my home, agents to the hotel, no matter where I turned I was bumping into agents.
- Q. Why? What were they looking for?
- A. What they were looking for, they were investigating me they said. But as it turns out, it's clear they only really wanted one guy and that was Jim Garrison.

Q. Well, now, did they find anything on you?

A. No.

Q. Nothing?

A. Not a thing.

Q. They had nothing to hold over your head?

A. Nothing they told me about. But I've been around long enough now to know that that doesn't mean anything.

Q. You mean you had no tax problems, nothing. Nothing that they could use to send you to jail?

A. No tax problems, no. I paid my income tax. But that doesn't mean anything to the Justice Department. Because you can be sure, now that I take this position, you can be sure in all righteousness they going to find something to charge me with.

Q. You're giving me a lot of double talk here as far as most people are concerned. Did they want you to investigate people in the pinball industry and Jim Garrison?

A. They wanted Jim Garrison.

Q. What do you mean they wanted Jim Garrison?

A. They wanted to silence Jim Garrison. That's their primary objective because if that were not true I would still be in New Orleans.

Q. Now, are you saying that you participated in a deliberate frame-up?

A. A total complete, political frame-up, absolutely.

Q. Why did you do it?

A. That's a good question, why did I do it.

Q. Before you left New Orleans, you told me you had nothing over your head, they had offered you nothing, they had promised you nothing, that you were doing this because these were a bunch of bad guys.

A. Listen, what else would I say?

Q. What do you mean?

A. What else was I gonna say. I uprooted my family,...

Q. Wait a minute, now...

A. Just a moment, let me finish...do you think for one moment that I would do this, in effect destroy the only life that my family and my children knew, cause them to live a life that's a lie now, with no consideration simply because somebody blew the bugle or waved the flag or something. You know, this is ridiculous.

Q. In other words they did have something on you, something to make you do this.

A. Did they have something -- they always have something, yousee. They start tomorrow on you, you can bet your sweet little bunny they're going to find something?

Q. Why, because I'm interviewing you?

A. Oh, I don't know for that reason, but if they pick your name out, if they decided you were a problem, you know, make a case of it, you understand, or they wanted to get you out of the way, they'll drive you out of your mind. They could get you to court. They can find something -- it's very easy to make things legal for them, I've learned -- not quite so easy to make them right.

Q. Well, what you're telling me in essence then is that they harassed you into a position of setting up a frame against Jim Garrison and...

A. And others, right.

Q. ...and executives of the pinball industry.

A. Right, right, right.

Q. Did you set out to deliberately entrap these people?

A. No question about it.

Q. Explain that.

A. Jesus, it would take us months to do it, Rosemary.

Q. Well, tell me as much as you can.

A. You see there's some technical things, and I just don't think it's prudent for me to really go into them now with you because this is only to arm the Justice Department, you see. I just don't think it's cool. I have talked with a lawyer.

Q. Did you frame all these people?

A. Well, yeah, I'd have to say they were entrapped, which leads to a frame of a kind.

Q. Well, now, you also told me last year that you thought the Criminal Courts Building was a rotten place and that most of the people who were associated with it were rotten people. Do you still stand by that statement?

A. Listen, you know, yeah, of course. I feel pretty strong about our whole judicial process here. You say the Criminal Court's a rotten place, but is it any less or any more rotten than, let's say, the Civil Court, you see. This is the rich man's court. The Judges that come out of that court come from the same cloth as the Judges in Criminal Court. But the Criminal Court is the poor people's court. Everybody attacks it, including me, because it's easy. Of course we've got whores in the State court, but listen we've got some fancy call girls in the federal court, too. Don't make no mistake about that.

Q. Well, now, you had me believe that part...

A. My whole life has been making people believe things if I could.

Q. Well, at least partially you had me believe that you were doing this work for the government because you felt that the system as controlled by Garrison and other political powers in New Orleans was pretty bad. Do you still feel that way?

A. Well, you see...

Q. Do you consider yourself a friend of Jim Garrison's today?

A. Do I consider myself his friend -- no, I haven't been his friend. I can't say I have -- I have not been his friend. I guess, listen, I've done some wrong things.

Q. Do you think he's done some wrong things?

A. Listen, who hasn't? Of course, he's done wrong things. He's done some things I don't approve of. He's done a lot of things I don't approve of.

Q. Well, what I'm trying to get at is do you think that...

A. Was he a national threat?

Q. No, I'm not talking about the possibility of Garrison being a national threat, what I mean is do you think that Garrison was guilty of any of the things that the government has charged him with being guilty of?

A. No, I do not believe he was guilty of them. I know he wasn't guilty of them. You see, but, you have to be so careful when you make statements like this because I had enough exposure with the Justice Department to know they are going to take my very words today -- now they walk into the courtroom with the credentials of the Justice Department. This awes people, you see. And nobody was as willing to believe that they lie and there are a lot of good agents that wouldn't lie, you know, I know them. I know a couple of them that I would bet are never in on the lies, you see. Listen, either they've taken a page out of the Russian way of doing things, you know, or vice-versa, but the Justice Department as it is today I consider a menace beyond my words, I can't, I just can't do justice to it.

Q. Did the government offer you anything? Did they promise you anything?

A. How many years you know me, darling?

Q. Ten.

A. Ten? Do you think that I would do everything I did for nothing, for absolutely nothing -- I never did anything for nothing in my whole life.

Q. Well, now, you said when you left New Orleans that...

A. That's why I was such a darling to the government cause I always knew what to say, I know what they want me to say. Mind you, remember, the agents that threatened me, the agents that lied to me, the agents that promised were never ever a part of the agents who did the work. These poor fellows really believe they did a sincere, honest job. It's a pretty good system.

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A. How in the hell did I get to Canada?

Q. I don't know. Tell me how you got here.

A. They paid every goddamn nickle of it, that's how I got here. Do you think I would pay for it? I got the most ridiculous, the softest job in America.

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A. That's hard to describe.

Q. Well, who do you work for?

A. General Motors.

Q. Of Canada?

A. Yeah.

Q. How did you get the job?

A. The Justice Department got it and that is a most interesting story. I get \$18,000 a year from General Motors. The government makes it up with four more thousand.

Q. They, the government directly gives you four thousand dollars a month?

A. A year.

Q. I mean a year, I'm sorry.

A. Yeah, but not only that, tax free. But that's not so good. Because before I left New Orleans they guaranteed me unequivocally, unequivocally \$22,000 a year, tax free.

Q. Now what is your situation?

A. Now I got to pay money -- listen, like everything about the Justice Department it was a lie. You see. I pay more tax here on this \$18,000 than I would pay on \$22,000 stateside. But everything, there is not a single thing that the Justice Department said to me -- not one -- that was true. Now, again, I can't win against the Justice Department in the courts. I know it. My family knows it. But let me say something, this morning my family -- I have never seen them so happy.

Q. Why?

A. Because I'm doing what I'm doing. They know what I'm doing. Not only that, corny as it might be, I have never seen my daughter look at me with the kind of pride that she did this morning. I know, this is corny, and it's not in my character, but, I saw it. Cause she knows about the lies. Listen, they brought a lady down from Washington to lie to my daughter.

Q. What did they promise your daughter and your wife?

A. Awww, they promised them Utopia.

ROSEMARY JAMES: Until this weekend, Gervais had been living under an assumed name, along with his wife, Beverly, their daughter, Jeannine, and their son, Darrell, in Towassan, a quiet upper-class suburb, 35 miles from downtown Vancouver. The neighborhood is nice, their home spacious and attractive, with plenty of yard

space for Mrs. Gervais' champion Yorkshire Terriers. Perhaps if the Gervais family had gone to Canada by choice, Towwassan could have become home. By the time they arrived, however, the entire family already had come to the conclusion they had made a mistake in leaving New Orleans. Certainly they were fed up with the alleged promises of the Justice Department. Certainly they never considered Towwassan Utopia. The fact that they had to live under the name of Paul Mason and family, a combination arrived at one night while watching Paul Drake and Perry Mason, added confusion to their unhappiness.

PERSHING GERVAIS: I had been going under that name ever since I left New Orleans. Somewhere between now, I mean between the time I left New Orleans until the time I got to Vancouver, somewhere in that area, interval, they flew me back to Washington, D.C., to legally change my name to Paul Mason. But strangely only my name was legally changed, not the rest of my family. Can you imagine the legal problems this could maybe raise down the road? Suppose I die or something.

ROSEMARY JAMES: Should I call you Mrs. Mason or Mrs. Gervais?

MRS. GERVAIS: I'd rather Mrs. Gervais.

MRS. JAMES: Well how has it felt to live under an assumed name?

MRS. GERVAIS: Well I never really thought of myself as Mrs. Mason.

MRS. JAMES: Has it been difficult to try to remember that you're Mrs. Mason for the time being?

MRS. GERVAIS: Yes, it's been hard to even think of myself as Mrs. Mason. I look at my driver's license they gave me and it says Mrs. Mason and it just looks like it belongs to someone else, you know, like I'm carrying someone else's driver's license. I can't identify it with me at all.

MRS. JAMES: What has your experience been like generally as a result of coming to Canada?

MRS. GERVAIS: It's like a comedy of errors. You know, it's unbelievable, I mean, if I tried to explain it to you or to anybody, I don't know how I could make 'em fully understand what, you know, make them believe what actually has taken place. It's unbelievable.

MRS. JAMES: Were you made promises by federal agents?

MRS. GERVAIS: Oh, all the time. I mean from the beginning.

MRS. JAMES: Did they promise you anything in particular that has upset you?

MRS. GERVAIS: The dogs. They were supposed to take care of the dogs.

MRS. JAMES: What happened?

MRS. GERVAIS: I lost two litters of puppies. I lost a champion that somehow, they say, got under one of the runs into the run of another larger dog and the dog tore it to shreds.

MRS. JAMES: What else made you unhappy?

MRS. GERVAIS: They had reservations at one place where we were supposed to go. We get off of the airplane and we go to the motel -- they don't have any reservations. One government agent -- you see this is government agents, all this is supposed to be planned, the motel days ahead of time. Well, we get there. Nobody made any reservations. Everyone said well, I thought you were supposed to do it. Another says well, I thought you were supposed to do it. So we get there and there's no motel. So they take us way out of the way to some other place. We didn't even agree on this other one we were shown pictures of, you know, and how nice it's going to be and she would be happy there.

MRS. JAMES: She, Denine.

MRS. GERVAIS: Yes, it was close to everything, you know, swimming and everything she would like, you know, and riding to keep her mind kind of relaxed because she was going through a bad time.

MRS. JAMES: Are you disgusted?

MRS. GERVAIS: With the government, very much so.

MRS. JAMES: Denine, what has been the worst thing about living here under an assumed name for you?

DENINE: Not getting to see any of my friends cause I don't have any here.

MRS. JAMES: Why don't you have any friends here? Are they cold to you?

DENINE: Yeah, I guess you could say that. None of them really like me.

MRS. JAMES: Well, why do you think this is the case? Is it just a different sort of life that they lead?

DENINE: Completely different. They don't --their way of having fun and my way of having fun are completely different.

MRS. JAMES: Do you find they're not very happy?

DENINE: No, not at all. They have no emotions whatsoever. They're just dull.

MRS. JAMES: Were you disappointed in Canada when you got here from the very beginning?

DENINE: From the very beginning -- I thought it was a drag the whole way through.

MRS. JAMES: Did they, did they, the federal government, make promises to you?

DENINE: Oh, yeah, they told me that anytime I got homesick or anything just call them up and let them know and that they would arrange it and fly me back home and they'd have people there to watch me and I could go there anytime.

MRS. JAMES: Well, what has been the result of this? Have they kept their promise?

DENINE: They let me call. Last summer they let me call sometimes.
Not very often and they never did let me go back to see them.

MRS. JAMES: Are you going to be glad to get home?

DENINE: Oh definitely.

MRS. JAMES: Now you get \$18,000 a year from General Motors. Do you get any side benefits?

PERSHING GERVAIS: Well, you know, I get the \$4,000 a year from the government, tax free. I also get a new car every 3,000 miles.

Q. Do they pay for the upkeep of the car?

A. Oh, yeah, they pay for the insurance, the oil, the gas, which comes out to roughly another \$50 a month in expenses.

Q. Precisely what do you do for General Motors of Canada to warrant this \$18,000 a year and benefits?

A. I don't do anything to warrant \$18,000.

Q. Well what do you do?

A. You couldn't dignify it as work but I simply pick up a couple of pieces of paper in one hand, transfer it to the other, and mail it to the factory. I am sure it has absolutely no meaning. I am sure this is not the function of Field Traffic Manager, a real one.

Q. That's what you are?

A. Yes, I'm a Field Traffic Manager for this area.

Q. How long does it take you to do this work every week?

A. Oh, I'd give them a total of about three hours, I would say, maximum, on the outside.

Q. Now, do all Field Traffic Managers have this kind of bed of roses?

A. Absolutely not. The man that has the next territory over covers an area of about 2,500 miles, get \$14,000 a year,

been with General Motors for about ten years, really works, works hard.

Q. Why would they want to do all this for you?

A. They're not doing it for me. They're doing that for the Justice Department, the government, certain parts of the government. Certainly not for me. I'm quite sure that General Motors never heard of me before, could care less about me, and are certainly not impressed with any great ability that I have.

Q. Why do you think they do it?

A. There can only be one reason and that is that they are a part of the industrial war complex.

Q. You sound like you're quoting Jim Garrison there.

A. Yeah, I am quoting him but listen you got to remember he didn't invent the phrase, or the concept, or the idea or the truth or whatever you call it.

Q. You used to be a friend of Jim Garrison's.

A. Not a very good friend.

Q. Well, do you consider yourself back on Garrison's side now?

A. Well, back on his side is not a fair description. I was recently in New Orleans and I asked to see him.

Q. Did you see him?

A. Yes, I did. He came to see me but, however, he wouldn't unless I had an attorney to represent me present.

Q. And who was that attorney?

A. Ed Baldwin.

Q. And he was there?

A. Yes, he was present.

Q. And you...

- A. They laid the ground rules down that they would in no way discuss the case.
- Q. Did they offer you any money?
- A. They?
- Q. Yeah, Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Garrison.
- A. Mr. Baldwin's my attorney.
- Q. I'm sorry, did Mr. Garrison offer you any?
- A. Mr. Garrison couldn't -- Mr. Garrison ain't got 30 cents, I'm sure.
- Q. Did he offer you anything?
- A. Not a thing, Not a thing.
- Q. Did any member of the pinball industry offer you any money or any promises?
- A. Not at all. That would be absurd.
- Q. Why?
- A. They wouldn't be that dumb. They'd have to be insane, they'd have to be frightened to death.
- Q. Are you saying that no one got to you?
- A. Absolutely nobody.
- Q. This is totally your decision?
- A. Totally my decision, yes.
- Q. Totally your decision.
- A. Totally, totally,
- Q. Why should I believe you now?
- A. Well, why should anybody believe me. That's the reason I had to say over and over and over. Bring these bums from Washington. Let's take a polygraph test. Let's all take it.

And don't let them tell you that it's not legal, it's not valid. The Justice Department has many polygraph machines, you know. They subject people -- are they going to say that the people who sit on those are second or third rate citizens? That they're immune to this. The Police Department in New Orleans, if a policeman refuses to take the polygraph test he's fired. It's been upheld in the courts.

Q. And you think that ought to be the case in the Justice Department?

A. Especially there.

Q. Now, are you saying that Garrison and the members of the pinball industry never did anything bad?

A. I don't know, I don't know what you call bad.

Q. Are...

A. It's a case of semantics.

Q. Are you differentiating between what you say they did and what they may have done previously?

A. I'm not following you.

Q. You know on the affidavit that the government filed against them...

A. Listen, let's say it's a total fraud, based on politics. I think one of my big problems with the Justice Department is they were sorely disappointed in the publicity that they got. They really expected a tremendous amount of publicity out of this. I know that they did. I don't think it -- because it was discussed. They thought that every news media in the country would pick it up, you see.

Q. What you're saying explicitly is that the government's total case against Jim Garrison is a fraud?

A. No question about it. Anything founded and based purely on politics can't be anything but a fraud.

Q. It's a whole lie?

A. The entire thing.

Q. Obviously you're packing. Obviously you're leaving Vancouver. To a lot of people this is a beautiful city and would be a marvelous place to live. But I take it you're going home.

A. I'm going back to New Orleans, right. I'm getting my family back to home where they belong.

Q. You're tired of being away from home?

A. I'm tired, I'm tired of living a lie but I'm mostly tired of watching them day in and day out live a lie and being coached to lie. You know, it's been confusing to my little boy. Of course, I'm sure the Justice Department could care less.

Q. So you're going home.

A. Yes, absolutely.

Q. Whether the federal government likes it or not?

A. You can be sure they don't like it but you can be equally sure I could care less. My family's going home where they belong and I don't care what happens after that.

ROSEMARY JAMES: The thing that will continue to puzzle most people of course is: Was Pershing Gervais telling the truth then? Is he telling the truth now? The problem that confronts Gervais is will anyone ever believe him again, will anyone ever be his friend again. From British Columbia, this is Rosemary James, Channel 4 news.

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Organized Crime and Racketeering Field Office
526 St. Louis Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

September 28, 1971

Mr. Pershing Gervais
c/o Mr. Floyd D. Moore
Chief, Intelligence Division
Internal Revenue Service
New Orleans District
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Dear Mr. Gervais:

This is to confirm the agreement between you and the Department of Justice which you will recall discussing on the night of September 8, 1971, and early morning hours of September 9, 1971, together with me and with Floyd D. Moore, Chief of Intelligence Division for the New Orleans District of the Internal Revenue Service.

You agreed that during the period September 1, 1971, to August 30, 1972, you will accept employment commensurate with your ability at the salary offered and the Department of Justice agreed to supplement such income up to \$22,000 per year.

You further agreed to accept employment commensurate with your ability from September 1, 1972, to August 30, 1973, wherever such employment is located at a salary of \$22,000 per annum and the Department of Justice agreed to secure employment for you at that salary for at least one year, and to pay the cost of moving for you and your family by regular commercial movers at the location of such employment.

It was further determined on September 8, 1971, that subsistence is paid on condition that you not re-enter the United States without the prior approval of the Criminal Division, and that all future payments will be cancelled and the Department of Justice will be relieved of any responsibilities if this condition regarding re-entry is breached.

In addition to the foregoing, the Department of Justice agrees, at any date you choose subsequent to August 30, 1973, to pay the cost of transportation and moving of household goods for you and your family by regular commercial movers from wherever you are then located, to New Orleans, Louisiana.

Sincerely,

JW:cb
cc Mr. Moore

JOHN WALL
Attorney In Charge