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*Assassination of Pres.
 John F. Kennedy*

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BY H.D. QUIGG

NEW ORLEANS (UPI)--THE DAY OF RECKONING ARRIVED FOR DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON AND DEFENDANT CLAY L. SHAW TODAY IN THE START OF GARRISON'S "CASE OF THE CENTURY" EFFORT TO PROVE SHAW CONSPIRED TO MURDER PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY. SINCE MID-FEBRUARY, 1967, WHEN GARRISON ANNOUNCED THAT HE AND HIS STAFF HAD "SOLVED" THE ASSASSINATION, A VAGUE BUT INSISTENT QUESTION HAS BEEN NUDGING THE MINDS OF AMERICANS AND MUCH OF THE REST OF THE WORLD: "HAS THAT FELLOW DOWN IN NEW ORLEANS REALLY GOT SOMETHING?"

THE TRIAL THAT WILL PROVIDE THE ANSWER WAS SCHEDULED TO START TODAY.

QUESTIONING OF PROSPECTIVE JURORS BEFORE JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY JR. WAS BEGINNING AT 11 A.M. EST.

A LEGAL TECHNICALITY REQUIRED THE REARRAIGNMENT OF SHAW BEFORE JURY PICKING BEGAN. HE HAS STOUTLY MAINTAINED HIS INNOCENCE.

FREE ON \$10,000 BOND, THE 55-YEAR-OLD BACHELOR HAS LIVED QUIETLY IN HIS APARTMENT IN THE FRENCH QUARTER SINCE HIS ARREST ON MARCH 1, 1967. HE IS A RETIRED BUSINESSMAN, DISTINGUISHED LOOKING GIANT OF 6-FEET-4 AND 212 POUNDS, BARREL-CHESTED WITH CROPPED SILVERY HAIR AND BLUE EYES.

"THAT FELLOW"--GARRISON, 47, WHO IS 6-FEET-6 AND A DYNAMO OF A D.A. WHO HAS WARRED ON VICE, BOURBON ST. BUSINESSMEN, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND EIGHT CRIMINAL COURT JUDGES--MAKES ONLY RARE COURTROOM APPEARANCES.

WHILE GARRISON STAYED IN HIS OFFICE DOWN THE HALL FROM THE TRIAL ROOM, ASSISTANT DIST. ATTY. JAMES L. ALCOCK, 35, WAS THE MAIN PROSECUTOR.

F. (RLVIN DYMOND, THE CHIEF DEFENSE ATTORNEY, TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF A HEARING ON A STAFF MOTION MONDAY TO FILE AN ANSWERING MOTION POINTING OUT THAT "THE ACTUAL ASSASSINATION" OF KENNEDY "IS NOT EVEN ALLEGED" IN THE STATE'S FORMAL CHARGE. THE INDICTMENT CHARGES SHAW "CONSPIRED (IN SEPTEMBER, 1963) WITH DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE AND LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND OTHERS" TO KILL KENNEDY.

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THE INDICTMENT WAS RETURNED MARCH 22, 1967, AND WHEN THE DEFENSE ASKED A BILL OF PARTICULARS DETAILING THE "OTHERS," THE REPLY CAME IN JUNE THAT "IT IS THE POSITION OF THE STATE THAT THE DEFENDANT ALSO CONSPIRED WITH JACK RUBY."

ALL THE ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS BUT SHAW ARE DEAD. FERRIE, 49, A FORMER AIRLINE PILOT WITH A RECORD OF AN ARREST ON A HOMOSEXUALITY CHARGE, WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS NEW ORLEANS APARTMENT ON FEB. 22, 1967, FOUR DAYS AFTER GARRISON HAD FIRST ANNOUNCED HIS PROBE WAS UNDERWAY.

IT WAS AT A PARTY IN THAT APARTMENT, THE STATE'S STAR WITNESS, PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO, TESTIFIED AT A PRELIMINARY HEARING, THAT SHAW (WHOM HE IDENTIFIED IN THE COURTROOM), FERRIE AND OSWALD DISCUSSED PLANS FOR THE ASSASSINATION.

JOHN F. KENNEDY DIED OF A BULLET THROUGH THE BRAIN ON NOV. 22, 1963, ON A SUNNY NOONHOUR IN DEALEY PLAZA IN DALLAS, 443 MILES NORTHWEST OF HERE.

THE WARREN COMMISSION CONCLUDED IN SEPTEMBER, 1964, THAT OSWALD WAS THE LONE ASSASSIN, THAT THERE WAS NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE THAT HE WAS PART OF A CONSPIRACY.

GARRISON HAS SCOFFED AT THE COMMISSION'S REPORT AS A "FAIRY TALE." HE HAS SAID AT VARIOUS TIMES THAT 2, 3, 7, AND EVEN 15 PERSONS WERE INVOLVED AND HAS FIXED SEVERAL SPOTS AS FIRING POINTS.

HE HAS SAID HIS EXPERTS CAN SHOW KENNEDY WAS STRUCK FROM BOTH FRONT AND REAR AND THAT SOME OF THE FIRE WAS DIVERSIONARY. AT ONCE TIME, HE SAID THE FATAL SHOT WAS FIRED BY A MAN STANDING IN A SEWER MANHOLE IN DEALEY PLAZA.

WHEN OUTGOING ATTY. GEN. RAMSEY CLARK MADE PUBLIC THURSDAY NIGHT A REPORT MADE LAST SPRING BY A FOUR-MAN PANEL OF PRIVATE MEDICAL EXPERTS SAYING EXAMINATION OF AUTOPSY MATERIAL CONVINCED THEM THE WARREN COMMISSION WAS CORRECT IN SAYING THE SHOTS CAME ONLY FROM BEHIND KENNEDY, THE STATE MOVED FOR A TRIAL DELAY.

IT SAID THE "TRIAL EVE" TIMING WAS HIGHLY PREJUDICIAL, THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD REFUSED TO TURN LOOSE THE AUTOPSY MATERIAL--THE KENNEDY FAMILY HAD SPECIFIED IT WAS NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC UNTIL 1971--AND THAT GARRISON COULD NOT GO TO TRIAL UNTIL HIS EXPERTS GOT TO EXAMINE ALL THE MATERIAL.

AT THE MONDAY HEARING, ALCOCK SAID CLARK'S ACTION WAS A BLOW TO JUSTICE AND COULD NOT HELP BUT INFLUENCE PROSPECTIVE JURORS. BUT HE ADDED THE STATE WOULD TRUST THE NEW ORLEANS JURORS' SENSE OF JUSTICE, WITHDRAW THE MOTION AND BEGAN TRIAL ON SCHEDULE TODAY.

THE DEFENSE HAS CHARGED GARRISON'S MANY UTTERANCES ABOUT A PLOT AND HIS CHARGES OF COVERUP EFFORTS ON HIGH COULD NOT BUT HAVE PREJUDICED PROSPECTIVE JURORS.

WHAT STARTED ON HIS PART AS CRITICISM OF WARREN COMMISSION IGNORANCE TURNED FINALLY INTO CHARGES OF LYING TO THE PUBLIC AGAINST PRESIDENT JOHNSON, THE CIA, THE FBI, CLARK, FORMER CIA CHIEF ALLEN DULLES AND DALLAS POLICE.

AMONG ELEMENTS HE HAS ACCUSED OF PLANNING OR COMBINING TO ENGINEER THE ASSASSINATION HAVE BEEN A CONSPIRACY OF HOMOSEXUALS; ANTI-GASTRO CUBANS WHO RESENTED THE BAY OF PIGS FAILURE; THE "PARA-MILITARY RIGHT"; FORMER CIA AGENTS; AND LAST OCTOBER HIS OFFICE SAID KENNEDY "WAS MURDERED BY ELEMENTS OF THE INDUSTRIAL WARFARE COMPLEX WORKING IN CONCERT WITH INDIVIDUALS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT."

THE LAST GROUP WAS EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THAT KENNEDY HAD BEEN WORKING TO END THE COLD WAR--"AMERICA'S BIGGEST BUSINESS."

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