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President John F. Kennedy

UPI-185

(SHAW)

NEW ORLEANS--CLAY L. SHAW, CHAIN-SMOKING FILTER CIGARETTES, WENT ON TRIAL TODAY ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRING TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY. TWO JURORS WERE SEATED DURING THE FIRST DAY OF ARDUOUS QUESTIONING.

SHAW, WHOSE ATTORNEYS SAID WOULD ~~NOT~~ TESTIFY IN HIS OWN DEFENSE, SAT QUIETLY IN THE MIDST OF THE BUSTLE CREATED BY A COURTROOM PACKED WITH 52 SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES AND DOZENS OF POTENTIAL JURYMEN AND REPORTERS.

HIS OLD ADVERSARY, DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON, MADE ONLY A BRIEF APPEARANCE IN THE COURT LATE IN THE AFTERNOON. HE TALKED TO MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AND THEN LEFT.

THE PROSECUTION'S CASE WAS OPENED BY GARRISON'S ASSISTANT JAMES ALCOCK WHO TOLD JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY THE STATE WOULD TRY TO PROVE SIX SPECIFIC ACTS BY THE 55-YEAR-OLD BUSINESSMAN WHICH WOULD SHOW HE PLOTTED KENNEDY'S DEATH.

IRVIN MASON, A NEGRO MACHINE OPERATOR, AND OLIVER MARION ~~JURORS~~ SCHULTZ, A TRUCK DRIVER, WERE SWORN IN AS THE FIRST TWO WITNESSES.

THE DEFENSE ACCEPTED MASON EVEN THOUGH HE SAID HE AGREED WITH GARRISON THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO RELEASE EVIDENCE FROM THE KENNEDY AUTOPSY. GARRISON HAS SOUGHT THE AUTOPSY REPORT FOR SHAW'S TRIAL. SCHULTZ WAS NOT QUESTIONED ABOUT THE AUTOPSY.

EIGHT VENIREMEN WERE QUESTIONED TUESDAY. FOUR WERE EXCUSED FOR HAVING FIXED OPINIONS, ONE WAS EXCUSED IN A PREMPTORY CHALLENGE BY THE DEFENSE AND ONE MAN WAS EXCUSED BECAUSE HIS EMPLOYER WOULD NOT PAY HIM WHILE HE WAS ON JURY DUTY.

PROSECUTORS SAID THE TRIAL MAY LAST TWO MONTHS OR LONGER AND LOUISIANA DOES NOT PAY JURORS.

MASON AND SCHULTZ WERE CONFINED TO A HOTEL FOR THE NIGHT AND WILL BE LOCKED UP EACH NIGHT FOR THE DURATION OF THE TRIAL.

DURING THE QUESTIONING OF MASON, DEFENSE ATTORNEY LEWIS DYMOND SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT "CLAY L. SHAW WILL TAKE THE WITNESS STAND IN HIS OWN DEFENSE" DURING THE TRIAL.

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