FRENCH QUARTER STORY Shaw Trial Jolted And So Is Witness

By HAYNES JOHNSON Star Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Charles Spiesel, a small, balding New Yorker with a set slight smile, had a brief glorious monent on the stand. For a while, it seemed as if here, finally, was a dramatic never-before-told story of the prelude to a conspiracy that culmi-nated in the murder of John F. Kennedy.

When he finally stepped from the stand, not only had his story vanished but so had a major portion of Jim Garrison's con-President,

spiracy sase against Clay L.

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He told an involved story that held the courtroom spectators rapt.

Spiesel, 49, said he had come to New Orleans in the spring of 1963 and, in a chance encounter, met David W. Ferrie in a Bourbon Street bar. He had spoken to Ferrie, one of Garrison's alleged conspirators in the Shaw case, because he thought, mistakenly, they had known each other in World War II.

To Upstairs Apartment

The conversation led to a few drinks and then Ferrie invited rison's office after Shaw was at-Spiesel to a private party. They drove to an apartment in the French Quarter, walked up two flights of stairs, and were admit-ted to a party. There, Spiesel testified, Ferrie introduced him to Clay Sharva the bast to Clay Shaw as the host.

Later, Shaw, Ferrie, Spiesel and about 10 other men sat around a table in the dining room having drinks, said Spiesel. The conversation turned to President Kennedy. The conversation grew critical, and then hostile.

Spiesel said he remembered someone saying, "Somebody ought to kill the son of a bitch."

Everybody at the table began taiking about how to kill the <u>.</u>

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Spiesel went spiracy case against Ciay L. Oefore an intense room full of Spiesel was called by Garri-son, the heatrical New Orleans to district attorney who claims to have "solved" the Kennedy as-sassination, as a witness for the state late vesterday afternoon before an intense room full of about a mile away."

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Other Conversation

Spiesel testified that Shaw "seemed amused" by the con-versation. He also said Shaw and Ferrie discussed the possibility of flying out the would-be assassin after the murder was committed.

The party broke up not long after, and Spiesel left, never to see Shaw again, he said. He did see Ferrie, a former airline pilot who is now dead, two or three times casually afterward. He said he contacted Jim Gar rison's othice anter Snaw was ag-rested on a charge of conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald, Fer-rie, "and others" to kill the President. He had recognized Shaw's picture in the paper, he said said.

That was where his story stood until F. Irvin Dymond, Shaw's chief counsel, began ling-

thy cross-examination. Point by point, Dymond tore He got him to concede first, He got him to concede first, He got his to concede first, that he had "demanded" a \$2,000 payment to tell his story on a television program in New Vork He draw from him a de-York. He drew from him a description of Ferrie that did not resemble the late pilot at all.

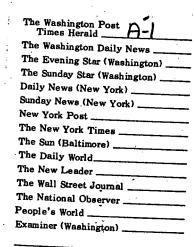
Next, he testified, a young man with a beard, about 5 feet 9. would like to do it. But how would you do it?"

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Quick Turnabout at

number of people who had "con-spired" against him. He said his father had done "undercover work for the FBI involving Rus-

Continued From Page A-1 York. Spiesel answered he had done so because the business was "not going well." "Isn't it a fact you claimed the New York police had hypotized you and tortured you and forced you to get out of New York?" Dymond asked. After some verbal sparring, Spiesel finally admitted that he filed suit in New York claiming the police had done just that. It also developed that Spiesel had filed suits against a psychia-trist and others in New York claiming they had hypotized im to get "confidential infor-mation" from him. Spiesel then said there were a number of people who had "con-spired". Spiesel then said there were a number of people who had "con-spired". He asis conceded, under fur-ther cross-examination, that he believed he had been kept under a "hypnotic spell" off and on during 1963, 1964, and 1965. He also conceded to show that Shaw, Ferrie and oth-ers were present at that party and that "the source to show that Shaw, Ferrie and oth-ers were present at that party and that "the french Quarter of this city." Garrison also said that testi-mony would be introduced to show that Shaw, Ferrie and oth-ers were present at that party and that "the french Quarter of this city." Garrison also said that testi-mony would be introduced to show that Shaw, Ferrie and oth-ers were present at that party and that "the fared and that the job could be killed and that the job could be killed and that the job

could best be done by a rifle. At could best be done by a rifle. At this point, the defendant, Clay Shaw, suggested that the man doing the shooting would proba-bly be killed before he could make his escape." Garnison obviously had been setting the stage for a star wit-ness, with dramatic eydwitness testimony. That witness turned out to be Charles Spiesel of New York.

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courtroom spectators. The consensus of those at the party was Spiesel was called by Garri-sensus of those at the party was son, the theatrical New Orleans district attorney who claims to have "solved" the Kennedy as-ered rifle with a telescopic sassination, as a witness for the sight and he would have to be

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Next, he testified, a young man with a beard, about 5 feet 9, and 160 pounds, said, "Yes, I would like to do it. But how would you do it?"

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had filed suits against a psychiatrist and others in New York claiming they had hypnotized him to get "confidential infor-mation" from him.

Spiesel then said there were a number of people who had "conspired" against him. He said his father had done "undercover work for the FBI involving Russia." He did not deny that he believed that his phone was tapped, that he was being fol-lowed, and that he was being subjected to a "Communist conspiracy."

Describes "Spell"

He also conceded, under further cross-examination, that he believed he had been kept under a "hypnotic spell" off and on during 1903, 1964, and 1903.

When he stepped from the stand, not only had his credibili-ty been virtually destroyed, but so had a key part of Garrison's contentions in the case.

contentions in the case. Thursday, when Shaw's trial finally opened nearly two years after he had been arrested, Gar-rison told the jury of 12 men that "the evidence will further show that in June 1963, the defendant, Clay Shaw was present at a that in June 1963, the defendant, Clay Shaw, was present at a party given in an apartment in the French Quarter of this city." Garrison also said that testi-mony would be introduced to show that Shaw, Ferrie and oth-

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