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Don't Discuss Shaw Case, Court Orders

Criminal District Judge

Edward A. Haggerty Jr. today ordered all persons connected with the trial of Clay L. Shaw, accused of conspiring to murder President John F. Kennedy, to refrain from making any statements concerning Shaw's guilt or innocence.

He also ordered all persons involved not to make any statements about any evidence in the case.

In a court order quoting a number of legal sources, the judge stated:

"THE KEY FLAW in the system of free press versus fair trial is the unchallenged chatter that hits the print and radio and television media between the time of arrest and the time of trial.

"Elaborate trial rules permit jurors to hear admissible evidence, subject to searching cross-examination; the whole system is subverted when the press, radio and

television media fill jurors' heads with inadmissible evidence.

"I, therefore, am ordering all attorneys, police investigators, witnesses and any public employe officially connected with the processes of this court and the forthcoming trial of Clay L. Shaw, not to discuss the guilt or innocence of the defendant, nor to make any statements concerning any evidence either for or against him."

JUDGE HAGGERTY read the order in his Section C office today. He also read for the benefit of newsmen letters to Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. and Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso concerning security measures for Shaw's arraignment Wednesday.

The letter to Sheriff Heyd acknowledged receipt of a communication from the sheriff in which his suggestions for security were outlined.

Judge Haggerty's letter, dated April 3, stated that he concurred in Heyd's suggestions.

The sheriff's first suggestion was that since the arraignment proceeding should be very brief, there be no specific seat assignments in the courtroom on that day.

ONE EXCEPTION to this suggestion, said Judge Haggerty, would be a table inside the bar rail set aside for representatives of local news media.

Judge Haggerty said there would be one seat at the table each for the States-Item, The Times-Picayune, The Associated Press, United Press International, WDSU-TV, WVUE-TV and WWL-TV.

The judge said that he concurred in three other recommendations of the sheriff's, namely:

—No cameras or recording devices will be allowed within the criminal courts building during the arraignment.

—Seats in the courtroom will be made available to bona fide members of the news media after approval at the door by sheriff's deputies.

—The Criminal Sheriff's office will have the sole right to inspect credentials and approve or disapprove admittance to the general public, depending on availability of seats.

"This procedure is being allowed for the arraignment only," the letter concluded.

"but will not necessarily be followed during the course of the trial."

The letter to Giarrusso asked for the Police Department's cooperation "in maintaining maximum security during all preliminary hearings."

THE JUDGE said the same guidelines will probably remain in effect for any other preliminary proceedings in the case before the trial date.

He said, however, he would issue specific guidelines for the trial itself as soon as the date is set.

Shaw, who was arrested March 1, is accused by District Attorney Jim Garrison of participating in a New Orleans-based conspiracy to assassinate the President.

Garrison has alleged that Shaw, 54-year-old former managing director of the International Trade Mart, conspired with the late David W. Ferrie, a free-lance pilot, and Lee Harvey Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as Kennedy's assassin.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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