

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Shaw Lawyers, State to Argue Calling Writer

By HOKE MAY

State and defense lawyers go to court here today to argue over whether Saturday Evening Post writer James Phelan should be brought to New Orleans for public testimony in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation of the slaying of President John F. Kennedy.

Attorneys for accused presidential murder conspirator Clay L. Shaw asked Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. to call the controversial author for testimony in open court.

MONDAY, THE DA's office answered that it, too, wants Phelan to testify here, but not in open court. The DA's office wants him behind the closed doors of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Phelan thrust himself into the case when he wrote a story for the national magazine which was published last week. Highly critical of the Garrison investigation, the Phelan article contends that Asst. DA Andrew Sciambra's original interview report on star witness Perry R. Russo

makes no mention of Shaw or an assassination conspiracy.

RUSSO TOLD three judges at Shaw's preliminary hearing that he overheard Shaw, the late David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald plot Kennedy's death here two months before the President was slain at Dallas.

Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as the lone slayer of Kennedy. Ferrie, a onetime airline pilot whom Garrison called "one of history's most important men," was found dead in his apartment here Feb. 22—five days after the Garrison inquiry became public.

PHELAN'S ARTICLE drew an immediate challenge from Sciambra who termed the story "distorted and incomplete." The assistant DA said he wants to face Phelan before the grand jury.

Shaw's lawyers, in a formal motion filed Friday, described Phelan as an "essential" defense witness. They want him to give a public deposition as soon as possible.

At Columbus, Ohio, meanwhile, fugitive witness Gordon Novel is scheduled to go to court today for a hearing on the warrant under which he was arrested.

Novel, who has told friends and associates he was working for the CIA in New Orleans, has been tagged as a "very important witness" by Garrison. He later denied any CIA ties.

The hearing today at Columbus centers on Garrison's charge that Novel, Ferrie and onetime anti-Castro leader Sergio Arcacha Smith conspired to burglarize a munitions bunker at Houma in the summer of 1961.

NOVEL HAS said the Houma incident was no burglary at all. He contends it was a routine pickup of explosives which were used in connection with the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion.

Both Novel and Arcacha are charged with burglary of the bunker by Terrebonne Parish authorities. Novel is free on \$10,000 bond. Arcacha, who was arrested at Dallas, is free on \$1,500 bond. Both are fighting extradition.

At New Orleans, a grand jury subpoena was served yesterday on a truck salesman who said he was approached two weeks before Kennedy's death by two men, one of whom called himself Oswald.

The salesman is Oscar W. DeSlatte, who reported the incident to the Federal Bureau of Investigation immediately after Kennedy's murder.

His attorney, G. Wray Gill, said the two men talked with DeSlatte about buying a

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STATES-ITEM

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Being Investigated

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