

FBI Cleared Suspect In 'Plot,' Clark Reports

By the Associated Press
Ramsey Clark said today the Federal Bureau of Investigation already has investigated and cleared Clay L. Shaw—a businessman arrested in New Orleans—of any part in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Clark made the statement to reporters moments after the Senate Judiciary Committee approved his nomination to become attorney general.

Shaw, wealthy retired director of the International Trade Mart at New Orleans, has been booked

on a charge of "conspiracy to commit murder" in the Kennedy assassination investigation by New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

Clark said the Justice Department knows what Garrison's case involves, and does not consider it valid.

However, the former chief counsel to the Warren Commission, J. Lee Rankin, said earlier that "as far as I know, we've never heard of this person (Shaw)."

Not in Warren Report
The Warren Commission's report did not mention Shaw.

Clark said Shaw "was included in an investigation in November and December of 1963."

"We have the evidence and we can assume what their conclusions are," Clark said.

"On the evidence that the FBI has, there was no connection found" between Shaw and the assassination of the President in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, Clark said.

"He was checked out and found clear?" Clark was asked.

"That's right," Clark replied. Both the FBI and the Justice Department had previously refused to discuss the arrest of Shaw.

President Johnson told a White House press conference he knows nothing about Garrison's probe

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- The Washington Post _____
- Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) A-1
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
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- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- World Journal Tribune (New York) _____
- The Sun (Baltimore) _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____

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PROBE

More Arrests Promised

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except what he reads in the papers and sees no reason to change his previous statements accepting the conclusions of the Warren Commission.

Shaw's arrest was the first in Garrison's assassination probe.

"There will be more arrests, a considerable number of them," Garrison said in New Orleans.

Shaw, 54, a decorated Army major in World War II, was released on \$10,000 bond after his arrest last night.

Shaw's luxurious French Quarter home was searched for nearly three hours by Garrison's agents. The dozen men who made the search carried away five cardboard boxes filled with various items, including books and a rifle or shotgun in a canvas case.

It wasn't clear whether Shaw is accused of taking part in conspiratorial talk about killing President Kennedy or of taking part in a conspiracy which in fact ended in the actual assassination.

Shaw brushed past newsmen

without a word when he was released after being booked, fingerprinted and photographed.

He was arrested in Garrison's office, where he had appeared for questioning, in response to subpoena.

Garrison has vowed to prove that a conspiracy conceived in New Orleans "culminated in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy" in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald, a former New Orleans resident, shot the President and found no credible evidence that any one else was involved.

(Shaw was described as a "political liberal, very admiring of President Kennedy," by Jesse Core, who worked with Shaw at the Trade Mart in 1963, United Press International said.

(Shaw "talked of voting for Kennedy and wore a Kennedy for President button" in 1960, Core said.

(Shaw said in an interview last week he saw Oswald distributing Fair Play for Cuba committee leaflets near the old Trade Mart in 1963 but never met Oswald and had not talked to him, UPI said.)

The announcement of Shaw's arrest said:

"Mr. Shaw will be charged with participation in a conspiracy to murder John F. Kennedy.

"It should be pointed out, however, that the nature of this case is not conducive to an immediate succession of arrests at this time. However, other arrests will be made at a later date."

The booking and the announcement did not specify whether Shaw was being charged with a conspiracy resulting in Kennedy's death — or with a conspiracy, not carried through, to commit the murder.

Asked about this, Garrison replied: "I don't want to get involved in semantics."

The point was brought up due to the wording of the announcement — "a" conspiracy, not "the" conspiracy — and because of Garrison's previous remark that not one but several conspiracies were involved in his probe.

Garrison said he would file a bill of information against Shaw.

The International Trade Mart, in an impressive 23-story structure at the foot of Canal Street,

promote trade through the Port of New Orleans.

After 18 years as managing director, Shaw retired Oct. 1, 1965, to pursue his personal interests and manage his real estate holdings.

At the retirement ceremony, Shaw was presented a plaque and the International Order of Merit of the City of New Orleans Medal.

He was awarded the Croix de Guerre by France during World War II, and the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star by the United States.

Before returning here in 1947, Shaw was briefly engaged in advertising and public relations work in New York City. He was born in Kentwood, La. His family moved here when he was 5.