v Shunning Mardi

By John P. MacKenzie.
Washingto Post Staff Witter NEW OFLEANS, Feb. 9-With only three days of the Clay Shaw trial under its belt, this city of charm and diversity is well on its way to accepting the trial as one of the two great circuses in town.

The other one, of course, is the Mardi Gras celebration that is building to a point a week from high Tuesday.

Unlike past years, Shaw is not taking part in the annual festivities. It would be "most imprudent," he said, declining to elaborate because of trial restrictions on newspaper interviews.

Friends of Shaw, less reticent and admittedly less. charitable toward Shaw's accuser, say the reason is that "Jim Garrison would find a new way to frame Clay.

Garrison, the District Attorney for Orleans Parish, has mustered the full powern of his office to bring Shaw to trial on a charge of conspiring to murder President Kennedy.

His investigation has both terrified and entertained much of New Orleans, where Lee Harvey Oswald lived in 1963 and where Garrison says . plots were hatched.

Mixed Credibility

Garrison's prosecutors have offered testimony of mixed credibility placing Shaw with Oswald and the late David Ferrie, two men whom Shaw denies knowing. in the same rural section near Baton Rouge the summer before the assassination.

They have sprung a surprise witness and seen him backfire, as plausible-seem-ing man wlose destruction under closs-examination inevitably brought to mind the court-martial testimony of Capt. Queeg in "The Caine Mutiny." The witness was Charles I Spiesel, who was unsuccessful in peddling was unsuccessful in peddling his or of the transfer by the day in the

It is still far from clear why Garrison happened to fasten on Shaw with the charge that the prominent social figure and business promoter used the alias "Clay Bertrand" or "Clem Bertrand" in conspiratorial dealings with Oswald and Ferrie.

Lawyer's Story

. As reconstructed by Edward Jay Epstein, a harsh critic of Warren Commission but now an even harsher critic of Garrison's methods, the prosecutor worked from a story by a New Orleans lawyer who claimed, and later denied, that a Clem Bertrand had sought legal help for Orwald after his arrest in Dallas.

In Epstein's new book, "Counterplot." the author says Garrison theorized that the lawyer was covering up for "a wealthy client with homosexual associates."

Shaw, 55, who built this port city's International Trade Mart after World War II and pioneered the restoration of the French Quarter, is widely respected in easygoing New Orleans as an able, genial man whose persons. He is strictly his own business.

Yet there is an undercurrent at the trial and some apprehension that the prosecution intends to get rough. Garrison investigators executed an open-ended search warrant at Shaw's home years ago and made much of 62 -101061-1 the seizure of a chain, pieces of leather and rope, a black hood and cape.

Shaw's friends make no apology for his personal life though they complain of terribly exaggerated rumors. but they insist that the confiscated items are irrelevant to it. The reason: They were part of a Mardi Gras costume, which gets back to why Shaw isn't celebrating

this year. How is Shaw taking it all? With apparent good humor, if his courtroom demeanor is any guide. With the consolation of philosophy, the study of religion and the company of friends, say his loval supporters.

The trial resumes Monday with star State witness Perry Russo, whose testi-mony about an alleged Shaw-Oswald-Ferrie meeting is considered the key to Garrison a case.

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The Sun (Baltimore) .

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him on the stand.

DeLoach Mohr . Bishop. Casper. Callahan. Shaw Shunnin Mardi Conrad **C**Felt Rosen 💆 By John P. Markenzie Washington Post Staff Writer Sullivan They have sprung a sur-Yet there is an undercurprise witness and seen him Tavel NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 9rent at the trial and some With only three days of the ing man whose destruction apprehension that the prose-cation intends to get rough. Trotter. Tele. Room Clay Shaw trial under its under cross-examination belt, this city of charm and inevitably brought to mind Carrison investigators exe-cuted an open-ended earch warrant at Shaw's home Holmes diversity is well on its way the court-martial testimony of Capt. Queeg in "The o accepting the trial as one Caine Mutiny." The witness of the two great circuses in was Charles I Spiesel, who after arresting him two years ago and made much of the seizure of a chain, pieces own. was unsuccessful in peddling of leather and rope, a black The other one, of course, his story of a party attended hood and cape. s the Mardi Gras celebraby Ferrie and Shaw until Shaw's friends make no ion that is building to a nigh point a week from Garrison bought it and put apology for his personal lift him on the stand. though they complain if Cuesday, It is still far from clear terribly exaggerated rumors. Unlike past years, Shaw is why Garrison happened to -but they insist that the confiscated items are irrelefasten on Shaw with the charge that the prominent not taking part in the anaual festivities. It would be vant to it. The reason: They social figure and business most imprudent," he said, promoter used the alias "Clay Bertrand" or "Clem declining to elaborate beause of trial restrictions on were part of a Mardi Gras Bertrand" in conspiratorial newspaper interviews. costume, which gets back to why Shaw isn't celebrating dealings with Oswald and Friends of Shaw, less reticent and admittedly less Ferrie. this year. charitable toward Shaw's ac-Lawyer's Story How is Shaw taking It all? ruser, say the reason is that With apparent good humor, As reconstructed by Ed-"Jim Garrison would find a ward Jay Epstein, a harsh critic of Warren Commisif his courtroom demeanor iew way to frame Clay." is any guide. With the conso-Garrison, the District At-orney for Orleans Parish, lation of philosophy, the study of religion and the but now an even The Washington Post harsher critic of Garrison's : Times Herald has mustered the full powthe prosecutor company of friends, say his The Washington Daily News ern of his office to bring Shaw to trial on a charge of methods, loyal supporters. worked from a story by a The trial resumes Monday The Evening Star (Washington) New Orleans lawyer who conspiring to murder Presiwith star State witness claimed, and later denied (The Sunday Star (Washington) ient Kennedy. Perry Russo, whose testi-mony about an alleged that ja Clem Bertrand ha His investigation has both Daily News (New York) : mony about an alleged Shaw-Oswald-Ferrie meeting terrified and entertained much of New Orlcans, where Lee Harvey Oswald Sunday News (New York) sought legal help for Ose is considered the key to Gar-New York Post after his arrest in Dallas. rison's case. lived in 1963 and where Gar-The New York Times ___ In Epstein's new book, rison says plots The Sun (Baltimore) "Counterplot," the author The Daily World_ Mixed Credibility says Garrison theorized that The New Leader the lawyer was covering up Garrison's prosecutors for "a wealthy client with have offered testimony of The Wall Street Journal homosexual associates." mixed credibility placing The National Observer. Shaw, 55, who built this port city's International Trade Mart after World War Shaw with. Oswald and the People's World late David Ferrie, two men Examiner (Washington) whom Shaw denies knowing, II and pioneered the restorin the same rural section ation of the French near Baton Rouge the sum-Quarter, is widely respected 62-11906-0 mer before the assassina. in easygoing New Orleans as an able, genial man whose personal life is strictly his NOT RECORDED own business. 46 FEB 14 1969