

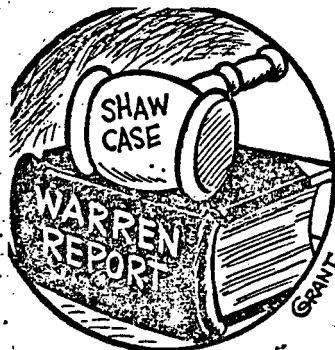
HR

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

The Innocent and Guilty

One of the sleaziest criminal prosecutions in American history came to a proper end in a New Orleans court Saturday with the acquittal of businessman Clay Shaw on a charge of conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. The fact that the charge ever got to the point of trial is a black mark against the Louisiana judicial system and a disturbing reminder of the power of a vengeful or publicity-seeking prosecutor.



ALSO ON TRIAL

This incredible case began two years ago when District Attorney Jim Garrison set out to prove his theory that the Warren Commission report on the Kennedy assassination was wrong. He took the established fact that Lee Oswald, the accused Kennedy assassin, had spent some time in New Orleans and proceeded to construct his "conspiracy".

On February 24, 1967, Garrison announced to the world that "My staff and I solved the assassination weeks ago... we know the key individuals, cities involved and how it was done".

It later developed that the man who was to be his key witness, insurance salesman Perry Russo, had not at that time even been interrogated by the District Attorney's office.

And a Saturday Evening Post writer who conducted an investigation disclosed in May, 1967, that Garrison's own records showed

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

R. K. ...

File 5 - ...

Assassination of Pres. John F. Kennedy

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THE TAMPA TRIBUNE
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Editor: James A. Clendinen
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that when first questioned Russo made no mention of hearing an "assassination plot" discussed at a party supposedly attended by Shaw, Oswald and another man now dead. It was only after Russo was put under hypnosis and asked suggestive questions, Post writer James Phelan reported, that he came out with the later story.

In the trial Russo admitted he had not heard Shaw say anything about killing President Kennedy. That statement, he said, came from David Ferrie, an eccentric pilot who died after Garrison began his investigation. Russo further admitted that the assassination talk may have been no more than "an inconsequential bull session".

This testimony, please remember, was the foundation of Garrison's conspiracy theory.

The whole prosecution case was a tangle of contradictions, suspicions and irrelevant snippets of fact. One Garrison witness was a confessed narcotics addict; the mental competence of another can be judged by the fact that he once accused the New York police of keeping him under constant hypnosis by remote control.

Garrison's main appeal to the jury was attack on the Warren Commission. In effect, he argued, the jury should prove the Commission's report a fraud by convicting Shaw.

Said one juror after the verdict:

"We were trying Shaw, not the Warren Commission. But I felt two or three times that I didn't know who we were trying — the FBI, the Federal Government, the Secret Service . . ."

Justice was done, but at heavy cost to an obviously innocent man and to the taxpayers of Louisiana.

Garrison himself will be on trial with the voters later this year. If a just verdict is returned, he will be found guilty of irresponsible use of his office and turned out.