

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Plot Role Is Denied By Shaw

Clay L. Shaw, charged by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison with taking part in a conspiracy to murder President Kennedy, appeared in person at a news conference today and proclaimed his innocence.

Shaw, who was for 19 years managing director of the International Trade Mart, issued a statement to the press in the office of his attorneys, 1045 National Bank of Commerce Building.

Earlier today, attorneys William and Edward Vegmann told reporters that Shaw would not appear himself.

Shaw, after issuing his statement, answered a few questions. He said that Garrison had questioned him around Christmas about an incident in which Lee Harvey Oswald distributed pamphlets in front of the old Trade Mart.

OSWALD IS THE man accused by the Warren Commission of assassinating President Kennedy.

Shaw said that he had answered Garrison's questions and had assumed that would be the end of the matter. Asked why he originally had been under investigation by the FBI shortly after the assassination, Shaw said that he assumed it was because of the same incident involving a distribution of leaflets.

Shaw said that he had never heard of any plot and that

he knows no one named Clay Bertrand.

IN A MOTION for a preliminary hearing filed by the DA's office today, Shaw was identified as Clay Shaw, alias Clay Bertrand.

Shaw's complete statement follows:

"I am shocked and dismayed at the charges which have been filed against me. I am completely innocent of any such charges.

"I have not conspired with anyone at any time or at any place to murder our late and esteemed President John F. Kennedy, or any other individual.

"I HAVE ALWAYS had only the highest and utmost respect and admiration for Mr. Kennedy.

"The charges filed against me have no foundation in fact or in law.

"I have not been apprised of the basis of these fantastic charges and assume that in due course I will be furnished with this information and will be afforded an opportunity

to prove my innocence.

"I DID NOT know Lee Harvey Oswald nor, to the best of my knowledge, do I know anyone who knew him. I have never seen or spoken to Oswald or anyone who I knew was associated with him.

"I have received messages of support from persons in this country and abroad who are dismayed and shocked at the accusations that are made against me. These people know me well and know I am incapable of being involved in a plot of this kind. Their expressions of confidence have been gratifying."

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

Page 1

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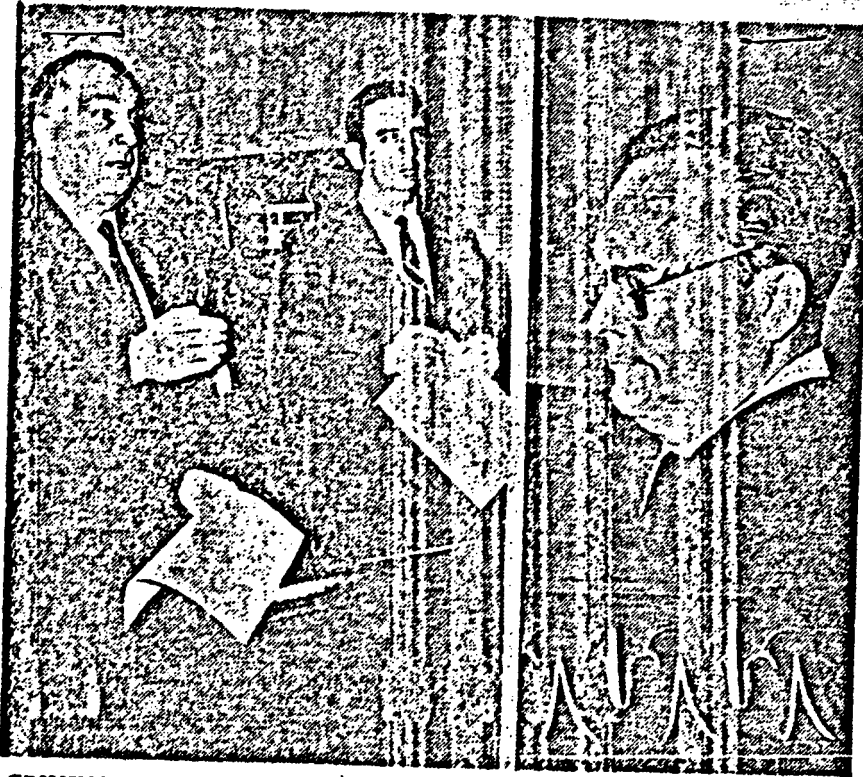
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Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

4684



CRIMINAL COURTS JUDGE BERNARD J. BAGERT, right, reads application for a preliminary hearing in the case of Clay L. Shaw, accused of conspiracy in the slaying of President John F. Kennedy. Present in the courtroom are GUY JOHNSON, left, attorney for Shaw, and Assistant District Attorney CHARLES RAY WARD.