

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Spectators Jam Court Building

By GERALD MOSES

NEW ORLEANS — The wide steps of the New Orleans Criminal Courts Building are filled with people, waiting, like a political rally waiting for a politician.

Television trucks, heavily loaded with gear, are parked at the curb, and approximately half of the spectators have cameras of one type or another draped around their necks.

While the outside is reminiscent of a circus, the bustle flows inside and up to the second floor, where the preliminary hearing on Jim Garrison's charge of conspiracy to murder President Kennedy, lodged against Clay Shaw, is being held.

Deputy sheriffs are at the entrance to the building, and several more are stationed at the entrance to the Division H courtroom.

### Passes Checked

If you have obtained a pass to enter, you must show it here, and a deputy compares your appearance against a photograph taken earlier.

Entering a vestibule, there are more deputies — one of them holding a portable metal detector, which is a polite way of searching you for weapons without tickling you in the process.

More deputies inside the courtroom, and one of them shows you to your assigned seat. The courtroom is packed with people — approximately 75 reporters and 25 other spectators.

Clay Shaw, tall, powerfully built and with silver grey hair, is seated with his attorneys at a table. Occasionally, he leafs through a copy of the Warren Report on the Kennedy assassination.

He smokes occasionally, and once the hearing begins, he remains intent on the proceedings. Spectators glimpse only his broad back, and the back of his head.

He is dressed in a suit, with vest, and is obviously warm.

He sits calmly. As one witness identifies him as a plotter in Kennedy's death, he doesn't move a muscle.

The courtroom is stuffy. Filled to capacity, the air conditioning units are straining. The courtroom is large, with

The courtroom is large, with ceiling towering more than 40 feet above the floor.

Hanging above Judge Bagert's bench is a glass-encased tattered American flag from the LST on which he served as executive officer during World War II. Two spotlights shine on it, but are turned out as the hearing gets underway.

### Calls for Order

Deputies shout for silence — "Order, a little order, please" — as the judges file in.

During recesses, the reporters and other spectators head for the outside hallway to smoke, but more to get away from the hard benches in the courtroom. The process of checking everyone out, then back in, causes the five-minute recesses to drag into 15 minutes.

When the hearing is ended for the day, the photographers waiting outside swarm into action. Shaw and his attorneys are surrounded four deep, and the mass of cameras and men flow across Tulane Avenue to where a car is waiting to take them away.

Again, Shaw is impassive, saying nothing and with his face immobile, as though his jaws are locked.

The hearing resumes at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

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

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