

Shaw Trial Delay Argument Opens

A motion to delay the trial of Clay L. Shaw, accused by District Attorney Jim Garrison of conspiracy in the death of President John F. Kennedy, was to be argued today before Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr.

Shaw's attorneys have asked for a continuance in the trial of at least six months, claiming that a fair trial now or in the immediate future here is impossible because of actions by Garrison and publicity he has generated.

If a delay in the trial is denied, the defense is asking for a change of venue.

ORAL ARGUMENTS will be presented on this motion and a supplemental application for a bill of particulars.

In answers to defense motions, the DA's office has said it would be agreeable to a "reasonable" delay of less than six months. They argue that if this is granted, it precludes the possibility of moving the trial to a new location.

Asst. DA James L. Alcock has said he does not believe a trial can begin now until after the Christmas season.

The state has argued that any prejudicial atmosphere that might exist in New Orleans is the fault of Shaw and his attorneys.

MEANWHILE, on another front, an appearance by U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville has stirred up a controversy.

Reporter Roy Barry of the Charlottesville Daily Progress quoted remarks he said Clark made during a question-and-answer period after a legal forum at the school Friday night.

Barry's story quoted Clark as saying, "Much as I hate to do it, I may have to prosecute Jim Garrison. He took a perfectly fine man, Clay Shaw, and ruined him for personal aggrandizement."

THE JUSTICE Department denied that Clark had made the statement.

Yesterday, Barry backed up his report, saying, "Clark's statement struck me immediately. I had never heard Garrison threatened before. It was hardly the kind of state-

ment a reporter would forget."

He added that he made careful notes of the attorney general's remarks and said that law students were present when he asked Clark a follow-up question. "I then asked Clark what personal aggrandizement Garrison would get from prosecuting Shaw and what Garrison would gain by losing a nationally publicized case," Barry said.

Clark answered, Barry said, "Perhaps he (Garrison) is not as logical as you are."

Student legal forum president Rosewell Page III also refuted Barry's report. Asked about this, Barry said, "Well, in his (Page's) position, he would have to say that."

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STATES-ITEM

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