

IN NEW YORK, the commission's former chief counsel, J. Lee Rankin, said, "It is true that as far as I know we've never heard of this person."

Rankin, now New York City's corporation counsel, added, "I'm sorry, I just can't tell you anything about it."

Pat Riley, press secretary for U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N. Y., brother of the late President, said the senator had no comment whatsoever.

In Cincinnati, the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, the former New Orleans resident who the Warren Commission says killed Kennedy single-handedly, said of Shaw's arrest:

"This is the first break for us, because this is what we've been hoping for."

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald told a news conference last night she expects the investigation to lead to the "complete exoneration of my son."

Also questioned by the DA's office yesterday before Shaw's arrest were Perry R. Russo, 25, of Baton Rouge, and James R. Lewallen, 38, of 4406 Paris ave.

RUSO SAYS the late David William Ferrie, found dead here last week, talked to him

about the Kennedy assassination.

Lewallen said he roomed with Ferrie several years ago in Kenner.

Other developments yesterday included the information that the DA's staff has been questioning patrons of a former French Quarter coffee shop which was frequented by Oswald before the assassination.

THE SHOP, THE Ryder Coffee House, was located at 910 N. Rampart before the building there was demolished.

It was also learned yesterday that federal police in Mexico City are questioning 14 people who met Oswald during his trip there in the fall of 1963.

This news was published by Novedades, a Mexico City daily newspaper. **END**

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Plot Role Is Denied By Shaw

Third Probe

NEW ORLEANS
STATES-ITEM

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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, 1046 National Bank of Commerce Building.

Earlier today, attorneys William and Edward Wegmann 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.

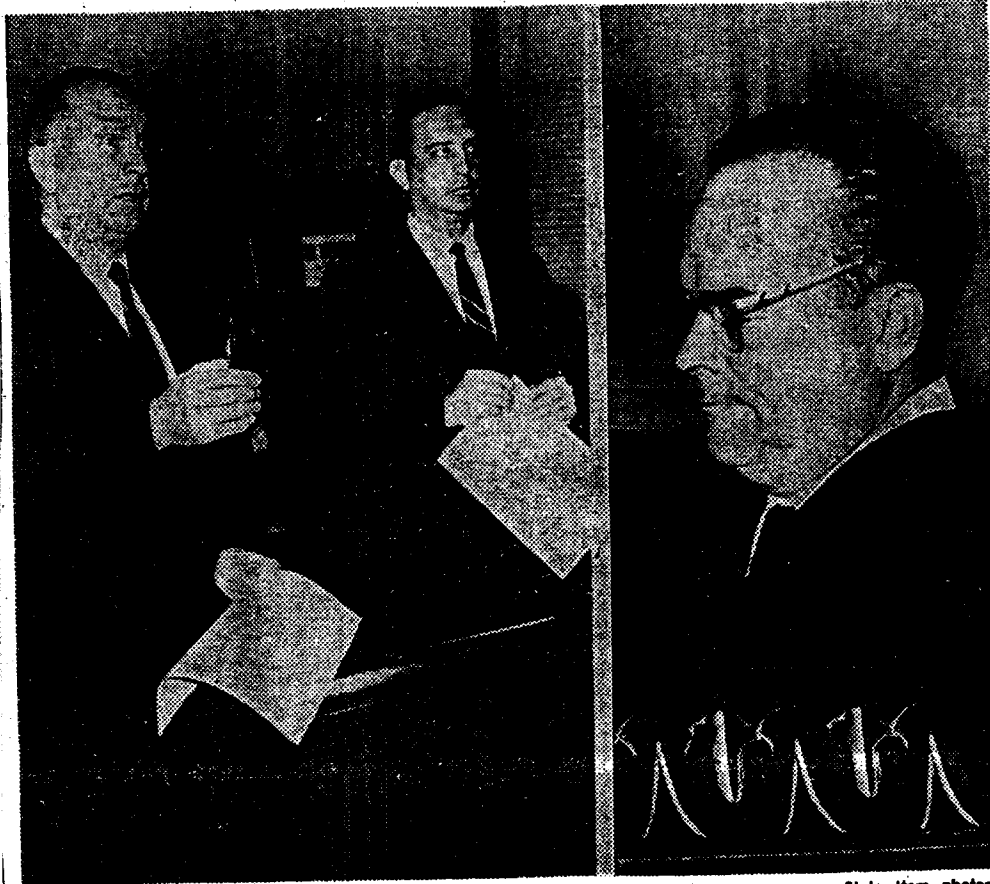
"I have not conspired with anyone at any time or at any place to murder our late and esteemed President John F. Kennedy, or any other individual.

"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 and opportunity

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—States-Item photos.
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.

Criminal Conspiracy Is Defined in Code

The revised Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure, which was adopted at the last session of the Legislature and went into effect Jan. 1, covers the subject of criminal conspiracy.

It says:

"Criminal conspiracy is the agreement or combination of two or more persons for the specific purpose of committing any crime: provided that an agreement or combination to commit a crime shall not amount to a criminal conspiracy unless, in addition to such agreement or combination, one or more of such parties does an act in furtherance of the object of the agreement or combination.

"Where the intended basic crime has been consummated, the conspirators may be tried for either the conspiracy or the completed offense, and a conviction for one shall not bar a prosecution for the other.

"Whoever is a party to a criminal conspiracy to commit a crime punishable by death or life imprisonment, shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than one nor more than 20 years.

"Whoever is a party to a criminal conspiracy to commit any other crime (besides theft or receiving stolen things) shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, in the same manner as for the offense contemplated by the conspirators; but such fine or imprisonment shall not exceed one half of the largest fine or one half the longest term of imprisonment prescribed for such an offense, or both."