

Speculation Rises That Garrison May Abandon the

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NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 18 — There was speculation in New Orleans this weekend that District Attorney Jim Garrison may be preparing to abandon his 30-month long investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

The speculation sprang up after Mr. Garrison's staff had asked for an indefinite delay in the trial of retired New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw, who was accused by the

district attorney of helping plot the President's murder.

Mr. Garrison remained unavailable for comment. His staff said that he was out of town. For several months, Mr. Garrison has kept almost completely out of public view.

The statement on Friday that Mr. Shaw might not be tried was issued by Mr. Garrison's chief assistant, James L. Alcock.

The announcement that the not ready for trial caught most of New Orleans by sur-

prise. For more than two years, Mr. Garrison has been clamoring to bring Mr. Shaw to trial.

At one point in recent weeks, Mr. Garrison said in a statement that only his "being killed" could stop the Shaw trial. He added that the trial would proceed even if the National Archives continued to shield the X-rays and photographs made during the autopsy of President Kennedy.

But yesterday, Mr. Alcock said that it was "absolutely necessary" to have the X-rays

and the photographs that Mr. Garrison had said would show that the President had been struck by bullets fired from at least two directions.

A panel of medical experts who were said to have examined the X-rays and photographs secretly early last year said that the X-rays and photographs showed that the President was struck only by bullets fired from behind and above him, Attorney General Ramsay Clark reported on Thursday night.

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Investigation of President Kennedy's Assassination

The panel that investigated the assassination, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, found that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin, and that Oswald fired the rifle shots from the Texas Schoolbook Depository in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Judge Charles W. Halleck of the District of Columbia Court General Sessions yesterday gave the New Orleans District Attorney's office two weeks to show that the X-rays and photographs of the autopsy, which

have been shielded by the National Archives at the request of the Kennedy family, were needed in a trial.

In charging Mr. Shaw on March 1, 1967, Mr. Garrison said that Mr. Shaw, the former director of the New Orleans Trade Mart, Lee Harvey Oswald and a one-time airline pilot, David W. Ferrie, conspired in New Orleans in September and October of 1963 to assassinate Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. Ferrie died shortly before Mr. Shaw's arrest, leaving

what appeared to be a suicide note, but authorities ruled that his death was from natural causes.

In the months after Mr. Shaw's arrest, Mr. Garrison said on several occasions that the conspirators included agents or former agents of the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

The Shaw trial has been subjected to numerous delays as Mr. Shaw's lawyers have sought unsuccessfully to have the charges dismissed or to have

the case transferred from New Orleans to another Louisiana city. The charges against Mr. Shaw, who has been free under \$10,000 bond, are under Louisiana laws.