

'Armed Police Patrol Rooftop At Showdown

By JACK DEMPSEY

While rifle-toting deputy sheriffs watched cautiously from the rooftop of the Criminal Court building, the long-awaited showdown between District Attorney Jim Garrison and Clay L. Shaw began today.

A surprisingly small crowd—aside from the throng of local and out-of-town newsmen assigned to cover the trial—was outside the Corinthian columned building when the central figures in the conspiracy trial arrived before the 10 o'clock start of the proceedings.

The atmosphere was curiously quiet, considering the publicity the case has generated since the tall, sophisticated Shaw was arrested nearly two years ago and charged with conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 23, 1963.

A FEW HIPPIE types and one character dressed in the manner of Buffalo Bill were among the scattered few watching the arrival of the judge, attorneys and the man who is the center of all the attention—the white-haired, conservatively dressed Shaw.

Shaw's arrival was a carbon copy of the half-dozen or so appearances he has made in the court building since his arrest.

Chain-smoking as usual, the retired managing director of the International Trade Mart drove up in a big limousine, flanked by his four attorneys, the Wegmann brothers, William and Edward; F. Irvin Dymond and Salvatore Panzeca.

SHAW STOPPED briefly before entering the building and was greeted with the blinding flashes of cameras and a barrage of questions from the reporters.

But he smiled broadly and answered only "hello" to all the questions.

The trial judge, Edward A. Haggerty Jr., also posed brief-

ly for the cameramen and on they came, the prosecution and defense witnesses who had been summoned to court for the opening. Some tried to enter through the Broad st. side of the building, but found they were forced to turn back and get inside the building through the Tulane ave. entrance.

In the courtroom itself, a drab setting, all 172 seats were occupied with prospective jurors, newsmen and a few spec-

LOOKING FROM the rear, Shaw and his attorneys were seated on the left, the prosecution attorneys—headed by assistant DA James L. Alcock—on the right.

As the names of prospective jurors were called, they were seated in the rarely used jury

box on the right, then as they were questioned, they sat in the jury box on the left. Normally, the right jury box is used by overflow jurors, attorneys and the press.

As the first hour ticked away, Shaw frequently placed a handkerchief to his nose, but one of his attorneys said it was not a cold. It probably was a nervous gesture, though otherwise he remained as outwardly stoic and dignified as he has in all his court appearances.

WEARING A SLATE gray business suit, his coat unbut-

toned, Shaw smoked cigarette after cigarette and occasionally wrote on a piece of paper.

If there was any stir in the first hour, it was when the court crier, Deputy Sheriff Joseph Marullo, announced the name of the first juror—John W. Kennedy.

Kennedy was quickly excused by the judge when he admitted he had formed an opinion about the case.

Of the first 12 called for questioning by both the defense and the state, four were Negroes, all were in the middle-age bracket and three were without ties.

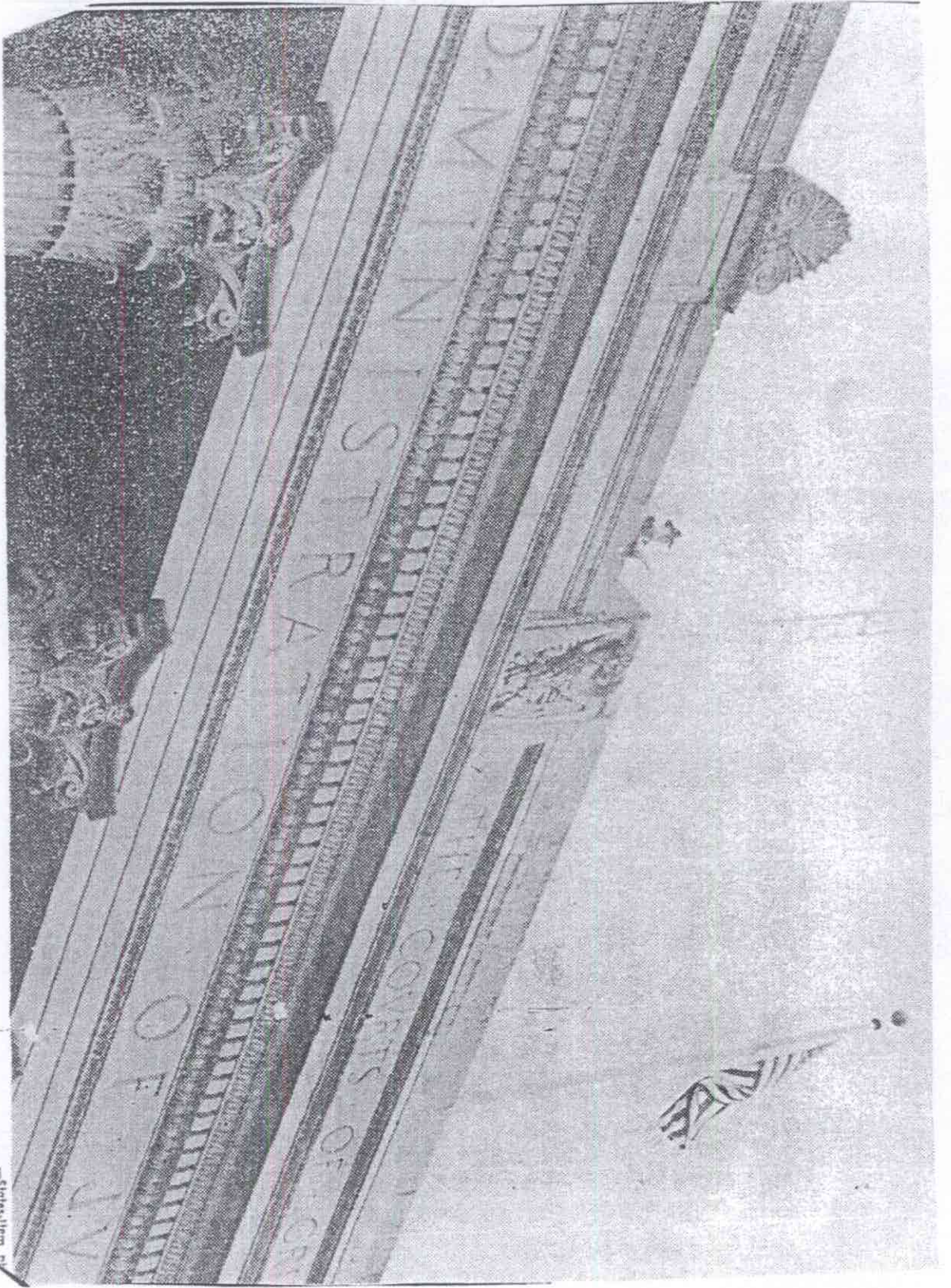
JURY SELECTION is normally a pretty dull affair—for the men and women recording the events of a trial. They may have a tedious time for the next week or two, or maybe even three. Those are the various estimates of how long the procedure will take to pick the jury that will decide whether Clay L. Shaw conspired to kill the President of the United States.



JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY JR.
En route to Shaw trial.

—States-Item photo.

ARMED GUARD STANDS WATCH ATOP CRIMINAL COURTS BLDG. AS SHAW TRIAL OPENS



States-Item 2