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DA Garrison Opening Case Against Shaw

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NEW ORLEANS—It is almost two years since District Attorney Garrison began his own investigation into the death of John F. Kennedy.

Today Garrison will get his chance to tell an all-male jury why he has contended that Clay L. Shaw helped to plot the President's assassination.

The flamboyant, 6-foot-6 Garrison has given advance notice that he will personally appear before Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr., today to deliver a 15-page opening statement. It will be his second appearance since this trial began Jan. 21. He stopped in briefly on the first day of the trial and sat quietly for some 20 minutes, then left and has not been seen since.

Without giving away his entire case, Garrison is expected to give enough of an outline to indicate how wide the alleged conspiracy to kill the late President ranged. From all indications—such as the loss of witnesses—the DA's case will attempt to tie the elegant and highly respected Shaw in with Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby and David W. Ferrie. All three of them are now dead.

Garrison has maintained that Shaw met with Oswald and Ferrie in September 1963.

However, under the conspiracy-statute Garrison need not prove that their alleged plan resulted in Kennedy's death. This trial, ironically, could be underway today even if Kennedy were still alive. The State must only prove that the alleged conspiracy was for the purpose of taking the late President's life and that one of the alleged conspirators actually committed a single overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy.

The State has alleged six such overt acts including one which stated that Shaw took a trip to California where he was on the date Kennedy was killed. The defense admits that Shaw, for-

mer director of the International Trade Mart here, was in California on Nov. 22, 1963.

However, Garrison will have to prove that Shaw was there because it was actually planned that way in the alleged plot.

Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the lone gunman who killed Kennedy in Dealey Plaza in Dallas, was killed two days later by Jack Ruby as the nation watched the slaughter on television. Ruby died years later after suffering for many months from cancer. Ferrie, a former airline pilot died shortly after Garrison began his investigation in February 1967.

While Ferrie's death was ruled to be natural after an autopsy, Garrison, nevertheless, called it a suicide and characterized Ferrie as "one of the most important individuals in history."

Garrison's key witness, former insurance man Perry Raymond Russo, 26, testified in preliminary hearings in March 1967 that he witnessed the alleged conspiracy while in Ferrie's apartment after there had earlier been a party there.

Truth Serum and Hypnosis

Russo then testified that the DA had used truth serum and hypnosis in his interrogation to help him recall what had taken place during the alleged plot meeting.

Garrison has also subpoenaed the Rev. Clyde Johnson and his wife of Baton Rouge, La., who are expected to testify that they witnessed a meeting in Baton Rouge between Shaw, Oswald and Ruby during which money allegedly changed hands.

Before Garrison's statement to the jury tomorrow, the court will first hear arguments on a motion by the defense asking for court enforced immunity for Mrs. Sandra Moffett McMains of Des Moines, Iowa, wife of a minister who Russo had testified had gone with him to the party in Ferrie's home.