

GARRISON DELIBERATE

Courtroom Silent For DA's Reading

By BERT HYDE

A casual but deliberate Jim Garrison hushed a crowded courtroom for 42 minutes this morning when he read—slowly and with careful enunciation—the prosecution's opening statement in the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw.

Looking fresh and fit, the district attorney, in an unusual procedure, read from a prepared statement, deviating from the text only once and then only slightly.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty's courtroom, jampacked with newsmen from all over the world and a few lucky spectators, was at first uncomfortably warm for the opening of the historic trial but air-conditioning soon corrected the stuffiness.

Wearing a dark suit, Garrison, accompanied by his aides, arrived at the courtroom just minutes before the 10 a.m. start of the trial, shaking hands with reporters and occasionally commenting, "Good to see you."

HE WAS ONE of the last to enter before the proceedings began. Shaw, the man Garrison accused of plotting to kill President Kennedy in 1963, had arrived a few minutes earlier, characteristically smiling and smoking.

Dressed in a dark blue suit, Shaw walked over to newsmen, greeted many of them and when someone asked him, "What's this, your cheering squad?" Shaw replied, "Yes."

A long line of spectators formed outside the second-floor courtroom, hoping to gain entrance, the first as early as 7 a. m. Most were disappointed.

Then, at 9:40 a. m., the 12 jurors and two alternates who will decide Shaw's fate, filed into their jury box and everyone awaited the arrival of the morning's feature attraction—Garrison.

WHEN HE FINALLY appeared in the courtroom, he moved through a swarm of people and took a seat at the prosecution table while other

members of his office and court attaches milled about him.

At the conclusion of arguments on two defense motions, Garrison walked slowly to the witness stand at the left of the courtroom, adjusted the microphone to his six-foot, six-inch frame and apologized to the jury for having to read a long statement.

He told the jurors it was part of the state's case and he hoped they'd bear with him.

Then, he launched into the statement while Shaw, looking intently at him, held a pen in his hand, sometimes biting the end of it, sometimes writing something on a pad.

At one point in the statement when Garrison told the jurors the state would show that the President was shot from the front, he stopped, looked at them and said, "I repeat, shot from the front, by a number of persons."

GARRISON looked pleased at the conclusion of the statement and walked immediately out of the courtroom when the judge ordered a recess. Surrounded by newsmen and court employes, he again shook hands. One spectator walked up and told him, "That was a very good presentation, you read it well."

Garrison shot back: "Well, it was only natural. I learned to read well in the fourth grade."

Then, accompanied by aides James L. Alcock and Alvin Oser, he proceeded to his of-

fice on the third floor of the building.

JUDGE HAGGERTY, obviously pressed with far too many requests for spectator space in his courtroom, had installed three benches inside the railing for a number of his friends and others. Among them were author Mark Lane, who has helped Garrison in his investigation, and famed criminal attorney Melvin Belli. Mrs. Garrison and Mrs. F. Irvin Dymond, wife of the chief defense attorney, were also among those in the courtroom.