

Shaw Trial Jury Sees Film of Dallas Slaying

Hush Grips Courtroom as Amateur's
Movie Recreates Kennedy Assassination

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NEW ORLEANS — A

sepulchral hush gripped the courtroom here Thursday as a color movie film and a man's voice recreated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The jurors, spectators and lawyers at the Clay L. Shaw trial watched in silent fascination as the celebrated Zapruder film was shown for the first time in public.

"The (presidential) limousine came down Elm St. toward the underpass. I heard a shot and saw him leaning toward Jacqueline," recalled Abraham Zapruder, Dallas dress manufacturer and amateur photographer.

"Then I heard another shot, another shot which hit the right side of his head. His head practically opened up."

Watch on Screen

Minutes later spectators saw on a movie screen the very scene the man who captured it on film in Dallas' Dealy Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963, had described.

It appeared to the nonexpert eyes of those watching that two shots struck the President.

The first appeared to hit him from the rear, causing him to slump toward his wife.

At the moment the second shot apparently struck, the President's body and head unmistakably were flung backward.

Whether he was slammed against the back of the limousine's rear seat from the shot, from the velocity of the car suddenly picking up speed, or still from some other phenomenon remains a disputable issue.

But it is a crucial issue to both Shaw, the man on trial here, and Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison who charged him with conspiring to assassinate the President.

It also could have a significant effect on the credibility of the Warren Commission report.

Film Interpretation

Garrison claims the film proves Mr. Kennedy was shot from both the front and back, thus caught in a cross fire in accordance with a plan conceived by Shaw, the late David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald—the man the Warren Commission held was the lone assassin who fired from the rear.

The film has been seen privately only by Warren Commission investigators and a few law-enforcement officials, so far as is known. Life magazine published still photographs from the film after purchasing certain rights from Zapruder.

But the single frames do not come close to matching the stark drama of critical segments of the 8-mm. film.

The jurors watched the film run at a normal speed, then frame by frame. Then they asked that it be run at normal speed again.

The brief sequence be-

gins with the presidential limousine suddenly looming head-on in front of Zapruder's camera, passing it, then disappearing under the underpass.

Mrs. Kennedy clearly is seen scrambling over the trunk of the car after the second shot had hit her husband.

Zapruder said he lowered his camera after the gunfire and screamed: "They shot him, they shot him." He added: "I kept saying, 'They killed him. They killed him.'"

Shaw Watches

Shaw, grim-faced, stationed himself near the judge's bench, his body facing away from the

screen but his eyes watching intently over one shoulder. He seemed to become less the defendant than a spectator at his own trial.

After the noon recess Thursday, Shaw's name was not mentioned again during testimony and it was obvious that Garrison now had the Warren Commission Report on trial.

For the prosecution case focused solely on Dallas, particularly Dealy Plaza. Thus to the lawyers of Shaw, a private citizen, fell the task of trying to defend the findings of the commission.

Bitter Battle Lost

The defense had fought a bitter, losing battle to keep the Dallas testimony out of the trial, to confine it to the conspiracy case Garrison claims to have established in New Orleans.

Judge Edward Haggerty Jr. ruled the Dallas evidence admissible, even though he repeatedly had said he would not allow the Warren Commission to be "tried in this courtroom."

James Alcock, Garrison's chief assistant, asserted that the Dallas evidence would be "highly corroborative" of the prosecution's claim that Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie, an eccentric airline pilot, determined that "several men using rifles in a triangulation of cross fire" was the best way to kill the President.

The judge agreed with Alcock, calling it "relevant evidence to prove intent."

Garrison's aides then introduced as exhibits a cardboard mockup of Dealy Plaza, plus an aerial photo and a topographical drawing of it.