

DA Asks Court in D.C. To Hear Warren Critics

District Attorney Jim Garrison today offered to present two expert witnesses to support his claim that the autopsy report and photos made after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy are needed for the trial of Clay L. Shaw.

In a brief filed by a Garrison aide in federal court in Washington, D. C., the DA's office again sought release of the records from the National Archives, where they are sealed until 1971.

GENERAL SESSIONS

Judge Charles E. Halleck Jr. said he will study the brief and set a hearing on the matter some time next week.

His experts, Garrison said, will present conclusions about the autopsy different from those reached by the Warren Commission or by a panel of medical experts that studied the autopsy documents last year.

Shaw, 55, is on trial on charges of conspiring to kill the president, who was shot to death in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. had ordered 150 new potential jurors subpoenaed for today, but only 141, plus one leftover from an earlier panel, showed up this morning.

Of these, 93 quickly were excused, mostly for financial or medical reasons. Among them were two women who said they couldn't be away from their families for the duration of the trial.

The judge ordered 150 more jurors called at 10 a. m. tomorrow, and an additional 150

Monday. Attorneys for both sides then began the process of questioning the 49 persons

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remaining on today's list.

Garrison contends the autopsy report will support his claim that Kennedy was shot from more than one direction. The Warren Commission investigating the assassination concluded Lee Harvey Oswald fired all the shots from the rear of the president.

BY ORDER of former President Lyndon B. Johnson, the report and photos were sealed in the National Archives until 1971 at the request of the Kennedy family.

Assistant DA Numa V. Bertel Jr. filed the brief today with Judge Halleck. Bertel said it rebuts conclusions drawn by four medical experts who examined the autopsy records at the request of former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

IN THE BRIEF, Garrison contends the medical review by Clark's four experts raises new questions as to the number of missile wounds on Kennedy's body and the direction from which they came.

He says he is prepared to produce two witnesses before Judge Halleck. They are:

—Dr. Robert Forman, chairman of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Wisconsin State University, Oshkosh.

—Dr. Cyril Wecht, research professor of law at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.

BOTH HAVE PUBLISHED their own conclusions about the Kennedy autopsy, the brief says.

Garrison says the review by Clark's panel made in 1968 does not conform to the original autopsy findings, "but on the contrary provides new and more serious questions as to the number of missile wounds and the directions from which the missiles came."

THE BRIEF SAYS the questions stem from what it said are "critical ambiguities" in the original autopsy and ambiguities left by the 1968 review.

As an example of questions raised, the brief cites a statement in the 1968 review that in a section of Kennedy's brain there were found "numerous small, irregular metallic fragments, most of which are less than 1 mm. in maximum dimension."

The brief adds as unanswered questions, "How many larger than 1 mm.? How large?"

JUDGE HALLECK on Jan. 17 gave Garrison until today to present evidence that the autopsy records are material to the Shaw trial.

Garrison contends Shaw conspired with Oswald and others to kill the president.

Yesterday, Judge Haggerty used up the last of the 687 prospective jurors on the panels of the eight sections of Criminal District Court and had subpoenas issued for 150 jurors whose additional names were gleaned from the jury wheel.

A shortage of prospective jurors slowed yesterday's proceedings. Judge Haggerty has used up the jury panels of all eight sections of Criminal District Court.

"IT ALREADY IS a record for the city of New Orleans. No case in this city has ever interviewed so many prospective jurors," the judge said.

As in previous days, the main problem yesterday was that the prospective jurors already had a fixed opinion in the case, or else their employers would not continue their pay. Jurors draw no pay from the city.

OTHERS SAID they would suffer "undue concern" if separated from their families for several weeks. The jury will be sequestered during the trial.

Defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond yesterday exhausted his peremptory challenges, by which a juror may be rejected without giving a reason. Each side started out with 12. Chief prosecutor James L. Alcock has one left.

Each side will get two more peremptory challenges when they begin selecting the two alternate jurors.

CRIMINAL SHERIFF Louis A. Heyd estimated yesterday that lodging, meals and miscellaneous expenses for the jury may cost the city as much as \$15,000 a month, or \$200 a week per juror.

Major expenses will be for rooms and meals. Jurors are being quartered at the Downtowner Motor Inn.

In theory, the city pays all of a juror's living expenses for the duration of the trial, including food, razor blades, haircuts, newspapers and shoe shines.

One juror already sworn in asked Judge Haggerty yesterday if he could exercise in the police gym. The judge refused, but said the city would rent him an exercise machine if he desires.

SHERIFF HEYD'S office is allotted about \$30,000 a year for jury fees and expenses. Heyd said this case will go well over that figure, and he will forward the bills to City Hall, where money is short anyway.

State law provides that jurors should be paid, but New Orleans is so hard-pressed for money the city has been unable to do so.

Prospective jurors who have spent long hours in Judge Haggerty's courtroom got one break yesterday. Traffic Judge Oliver S. Delery appeared to say that those who received traffic tickets won't have to pay them.