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Garrison Makes His First Arrest



IN CUSTODY: CLAY SHAW

Executive Held In JFK 'Plot'

By JOHN LANG
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS—Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison arrested wealthy Clay L. Shaw Wednesday night and accused him of taking part in a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.

Shaw, a retired executive, was booked on "conspiracy to commit murder" and released on \$10,000 bond.

"There will be more arrests," the 6-foot-6 New Orleans district attorney told newsmen. "I have no doubt about the case. If you want to bet against me, you will lose."

Shaw, 54, is the retired managing director of the New Orleans international Trade Mart. He was a decorated Army major in World War II.

A handsome, silver-haired man, Shaw was released after being fingerprinted and mugged. He refused to talk to newsmen.

Shaw's arrest was announced by Garrison's chief investigator, William Gurvich. At a tumultuous news conference in the echoing marble corridor outside the district attorney's office, he read this statement:

"The first arrest has been made in the investigation of the New Orleans District Attorney's office into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"Arrested this evening in the District Attorney's office was Clay Shaw, age 54, of 1313 Dauphine st., New Orleans, La.

"Mr. Shaw will be charged with participation in a conspiracy to murder John F. Kennedy.

"It should be pointed out, however, that the nature of this case is not conducive to an immediate succession of arrests at this time. However, other arrests will be made at a later date."

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QUESTIONED BY GARRISON—James Lewallen (left), who once roomed with David Ferrie, walks with Atty. George Piazza. (UPI)

Executive 'Once Saw' Oswald

★ ARREST

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Garrison's claim of conspiracy goes counter to the Warren Commission's official report that Lee Harvey Oswald alone fired the bullets that killed Kennedy, and that there was no credible evidence any one else was involved.

Garrison said Shaw had a lawyer with him during the long afternoon of interrogation. He said Shaw would be booked on the authority of the district attorney.

For 18 years Shaw was managing director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart.

A privately-supported, non-profit organization formed to promote trade through the Port of New Orleans.

Shaw retired Oct. 1, 1965, saying that a new Trade Mart building erected at the foot of Canal st., on the bank of the Mississippi River, was the fulfillment of his lifelong dream.

Retirement, he said, would give him time to pursue his personal interests and manage his real estate holdings.

WAR HERO

At a ceremony marking his retirement, Shaw was presented a plaque and the International Order of Merit of the City of New Orleans Medal.

During World War II he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre and the United States Legion of Merit and Bronze Star. He also is a Chevalier of the Order of the Crown of Belgium and, while he was director of the Trade Mart, France gave him the distinction of "Chevalier de L'Ordre du Merite Commercial."

Before returning to New

Orleans in 1947, Shaw was briefly engaged in advertising and public relations work in New York city.

A native of Kentwood, La., he moved to New Orleans with his family at age five.

Oswald, a former New Orleans resident, showed up on several occasions in front of the old Trade Mart building—now an office building—to hand out propaganda leaflets.

At the time, the Summer of 1963, Oswald was working with a group he called "Fair Play for Cuba," a pro-Castro organization.

In an interview last week, Shaw said he once saw Oswald distributing the leaflets but never met or spoke to him.

Garrison said he would file a bill of information against Shaw.

Under Louisiana law, a district attorney can bring a prisoner to trial under one of two methods: A grand jury indictment or by filing a bill of information with a judge. Earlier Wednesday an ex-Air Force pilot underwent questioning in Garrison's office after being subpoenaed.

James R. Lewallen, 38, an employee of the Boeing Co., also was called in for questioning. A Baton Rouge salesman, Perry Raymond Russo, 25, appeared voluntarily to pass on information he claims to have about the assassination.

Lewallen's attorney, George Piazza II, told reporters outside Garrison's office that his client once roomed with David W. Ferrie, 48, a freelance pilot described by Garrison as a participant in the alleged conspiracy to kill the President.

Ferrie was found dead in bed Feb. 22. The coroner ruled death resulted from natural causes. Garrison maintains Ferrie committed sui-

cide while under investigation.

"Like many other people in New Orleans, James Lewallen knew David Ferrie," told newsmen.

He said Lewallen had talked voluntarily with the district attorney's investigators earlier in the probe and had answered all questions about his acquaintance with Ferrie.

The subpoena came "as a great surprise to us," Piazza said.