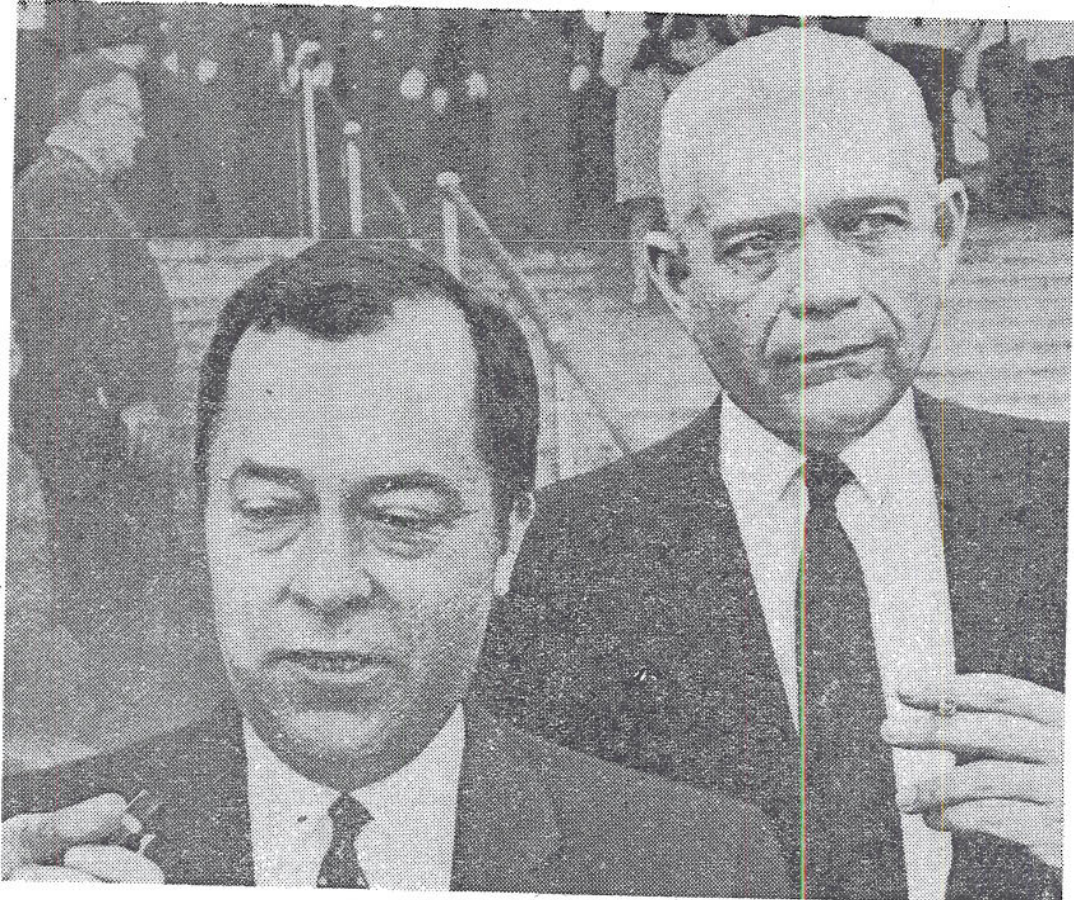


Will Garrison



Clay Shaw, who gets a hearing today on charges of conspiring to murder President Kennedy, lets his lawyer, Edward Wegman, do the talking outside New Orleans courthouse.

Associated Press Wirephoto

Unveil Witness?

By **CARL J. PELLECK**

New York Post Correspondent

New Orleans, March 14—District Attorney Garrison will have to put up or shut up today when he appears at a formal hearing on his charges that a plot here engineered the assassination of President Kennedy.

Judge Bernard Bagert, the presiding member of the "special" three-judge criminal District Court panel that will hear the case, has already indicated that Garrison may have to produce in court his mystery witness to the alleged plot.

Garrison's office has said he will produce the witness and also said the flamboyant prosecutor will personally handle the case.

Lawyers here doubt that Garrison will produce any witness who can link Clay L. Shaw — the only defendant in the case so far — with Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie, a pilot who died Feb. 22.

Prevailing opinion among the lawyers is that Garrison can use any number of basic legal maneuvers to prevent making his informer's identity public. It is doubtful that the judges will force Garrison to make the revelation, observers feel.

Garrison arrested Shaw, a wealthy retired business executive, on March 1, charging him with taking part in the alleged conspiracy.

The formal complaint alleges

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that Shaw was "arrested after an investigation revealed that he had conspired and entered into an agreement or combination with one or more other persons for the specific purpose of committing the crime of murder of John F. Kennedy."

Shaw has publicly denied the charges. He is currently free on \$10,000 bond.

Is Shaw 'Bertrand'?

Shaw, it was revealed in court papers filed by Garrison recently to obtain a search warrant, is believed by the DA to be Clay Bertrand, a name mentioned briefly in the Warren Commission report, but never identified or questioned by the FBI.

Garrison, it was learned, has at least one witness, a young man who attended law school at Loyola University here, who came forward voluntarily recently and told of a conversation he had with Ferrie about a month before the assassination.

A source in Garrison's office said the young man, who now sells insurance in Baton Rouge, told Garrison that Ferrie had told him: "We're going to kill the President." Reportedly Ferrie assured the young man that the job wouldn't be too difficult.

Garrison, the source said, is looking into reports that CIA-trained Cuban exiles participated in the plot to kill Kennedy because they had been disillusioned and angered by the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

Today's session is unique in that the preliminary hearing was requested by the prosecution and not by the defense, which usually seeks such a hearing to force the state to put its case on the line.

The only apparent advantage to the DA in calling for the hearing would be to get testimony into the official record.