

Post 3/23/67
Shaw Indicted

In Kennedy Plot

The Orleans (La.) Parish grand jury yesterday indicted Clay Shaw for conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Shaw, a 54-year-old businessman who served for years as director of New Orleans International Trade Mart, had been ordered held for trial by a special three-judge panel last week. The formal charge in the indictment represented the next step by District Attorney Jim Garrison who had Shaw arrested March 1.

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Associated Press

Dean Andrews, left, leaves court with attorney Sam Zelden.

Clay Shaw Indicted For Conspiracy in Kennedy's Slaying

From News Dispatches

NEW ORLEANS, March 22—Clay L. Shaw was formally accused by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury today of conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

The businessman's indictment was unexpected. District Attorney Jim Garrison had indicated that he would lodge formal charges against Shaw by filing a bill of information.

Garrison, however, apparently chose to seek additional support for his claims by taking his case before the Grand Jury.

Perry R. Russo, the DA's star witness at a preliminary hearing on Shaw's arrest last week, spent nearly two hours with the Grand Jury before it handed down the indictment.

The 25-year-old insurance salesman from Baton Rouge declined comment as he walked out of the Grand Jury room with two of Garrison's assistants.

His memory supposedly jogged by hypnosis, Russo swore in open court last week that he heard free-lance pilot David W. Ferrie spell out an assassination plot to Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald at the windup of a party in Ferrie's flat in mid-September of 1963.

The indictment charged Shaw with "willfully and unlawfully conspiring with David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald to murder John F. Kennedy."

Shaw has been hospitalized

since shortly after the conclusion of the preliminary hearing, in which a special three-judge panel ordered him held for trial. His attorneys won court permission earlier today for him to take a vacation on the Gulf Coast this weekend.

In other developments, attorney Dean Adams Andrews Jr. pleaded not guilty at his arraignment on a perjury charge handed down by the Grand Jury last week.

Andrews had told the Warren Commission he was asked to do legal work for Oswald, both before and immediately after the assassination, by a "Clay Bertrand."

Garrison has accused Shaw of using "Clay Bertrand" as an alias, but Andrews has refused to state that the two are the same man. The basis for his perjury charge has not been disclosed.

The Grand Jury also subpoenaed bar operator Gordon Novel for questioning today, but he was reported out of the state temporarily. He was said to have sold his recently opened Jamaican Village night spot Sunday.

When first called before the Grand Jury last week, Novel said he expected to be questioned about Sergio Arcacha Smith, former Cuban exile leader now living in Dallas who was associated with Ferrie here. The jurors did not get around to hearing his testimony, however.