CROWD GATHERS OUTSIDE COURT

Best Turnout for Vendor Since DA-Judge Rift

By PAUL ATKINSON

"Best day we've had since Garrison and the judges hooked up."

That was how a concession stand employe described Tuesday's hectic events in the Criminal Courts Bldg., as District Attorney Jim Garrison brought Clay Shaw to court in a preliminary hearing to determine if Show conspired to kill President John F. Kennedy. The employe's reference to the other "booming" day was when Garrison took on the Criminal Court judges and a large audience turned out.

This time the audience outside of the courtroom was really the show.

Newspaper and television cameramen, forced to cool their heels outside on the steps of the massive old building on Tulane ave., set up shop and kept sightseers busy. Railbirds — and there were plenty seeking to get any tidbit of news—went from one little knot of people to the others, haging on every word.

IN GOOD FASHION

Through it all, Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Hyde Jr. and his deputies were able to contain

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the ensemblage — made up largely of press members—in good fashion.

Heyd was pleased with how things were going when he talked to a reporter at the noon recess.

"Everyone's been cooperative," praised Heyd. "I know you fellows (reporters) have a jbo to do and you've been very helpful."

After the hearing had been abruptly recessed for the day at 3:30 p. m., Heyd and his staff, though, faced their largest task—getting Shaw and his attorneys, F. Irvin Dymond Edward and William Wegmann, across bustling Tulane ave.

Accompanied by a horde of newspapermen, cameramen and curious onlookers, the group made one great surge across the street. Some stragglers, bringing up the rear, were nearly run over by motorists who felt the great exodus across the street was over.

Though moving crisply, Shaw looked composed. He had his ever-present cigarettes in hand, lighting it before he left the courtroom for the mad dash down the spiral staircase and out onto the building's steps.

LITTLE SAID

As the Shw group went into a parking lot to get its car, cameras whirred through hardly a word was spoken, except for "no comments" by the principals who have been ordered to make no statements to the press by presiding Criminal Court Judge Bernard J. Bagert.

Tight security measures were in force inside the courtroom. Heyd placed his deputies at strategic points and the deputies weren't afraid to call down the spectators and press for any talking.

There were a few moments of humor in the proceedings. When Garrison introduced a rifle with a telescopic sight on it into evidence, Dymond examined it cautiously and for what Judge Bagert apparently thought was overly long.

Judge Bagert looked at Dymond and quipped, "Mr. Dymond, are you going to verify that the gun is loaded?" The courtroom rang with laughter, but only for a moment before Judge Bagert called for order.

Another time, Judge Bagert pulled at his collar and said, "Is the air-conditioning on?" This, too, brought a small snicker of laughter during the usually-tense day.

There were no "gate crashers" at the hearing. Press representatives and those privileged to get passes were carefully checked at the door and matched against a small picture taken earlier.

Some curious about the hearing hadn't heard that the auditorium was all committed and showed up anyway. One Tulane University Medical School student said, "We were just interested and decided to come; but they wouldn't let us in."

Because of the large number of foreign reporters at the hearing, it wasn't uncommon to hear French, German or Spanish spoken as casually as New Orleans' drawls as the reporters milled in the halls.

It was an exciting, colorful start to what may prove to be one of history's most important preliminary hearings.