Shaw Describes Himself as Old-Fashioned Liberal

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News Media Invited to Attorney's Home

By BILL VOELKER

The only living man charged with conspiring to assassinate Pres. John F. Kennedy described himself Monday night as "an old-fashioned liberal" in the tradition of Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt, who admired Kennedy "for the way he was continuing this trend in our government."

Clay L. Shaw, with a mental eye on court guidelines and physical eyes cast occasionally on attorneys flanking him Monday night, gave newsmen a precis of his life and philosophy—"to develop one's potential to the fullest" while "making it a policy not to harm anyone else."

Shaw, retired managing director of the International Trade Mart, has been charged by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison

—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
CLAY L. SHAW
Gives philosophy of life.

and indicted by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury for allegedly participating in a conspiracy to assassinate the late President.

Defense attorney Edward Wegmann, at a press conference called at his residence, 350 Broadway, said the purpose of the gathering was to afford badgering magazine editors the necessary art work for future coverage, in view of the national and international interest in the coming trial.

Wegmann, who was seated with his brother and fellow attorney, William Wegmann, at his right and the third defense attorney, F. Irvin Dymond, at Shaw's left, said he invited all news media so as not to incur the displeasure of any.

Dymond added, however, that the court guidelines as issued by District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. concerning public statements on the subject matter of the trial would be respected. Haggerty will be presiding judge at Shaw's trial.

Notwithstanding, Shaw, with occasional glances at his attorneys for approval, fielded deftly a barrage of questions from newsmen, the answers to which rang like this:

—"Since this all began (allegations, charges and indictment) I've tried to lead as normal a life as possible, under the circumstances."

—He is physically in good health, though recuperating from a recent operation for a back injury of many years (received while in training in the Marine Corps) and mentally is "looking forward to the trial."

—After the legal ordeal ("I must meet the crisis and do what has to be done") in which Shaw said he will "be proved innocent, of course," he intends to continue to live in New Orleans, in the French Quarter, at 1313 Dauphine.

—He is now working on an historical play about the first Spanish governor of Louisiana, Don Antonio de Ulloa, and is the author of plays entitled "Submerged" and "Memorial."

—How does he reconcile his interest in the past (for having restored 15 French Quarter homes during a period of 15 years while ITM managing director) with his hoped-for social welfare development in this country and in Latin America? "I have one foot in New Orleans of the future and one foot in New Orleans of the past," he said.

—He has no sympathy for a Cuban Fidel Castro-type revolution because it is Communist. He said such revolutions are now less likely in Latin America because steps are being taken through such JFK-initiated programs as the Al-

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liance for Progress and the Peace Corps. Shaw added, however, that he has had no association with any anti-Castroites.

Shaw's attorneys passed out a three - page "Biographical Sketch of Clay L. Shaw," which also contained many of the answers which newsmen later put to him.

On his political philosophy, the text of the sketch noted:

"Convinced that in the increasingly complex urban societies of our times, the old doctrine of laissez-faire capitalism was both unworkable and unfair to great segments of the population, and faced at the other extreme with the tyrannies of fascism and communism, with their crushing of the individual, he feels that only through a modification of the capitalist system, such as that begun by President Wilson and accelerated by President Roosevelt and President Kennedy, can the greatest good be brought to the greatest number of people in the world."

It added: "His particular interest in the liberalization of trade between countries made him a staunch supporter of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, on which he testified before the Congressional committee considering the matter, and is devoutly hopeful that the present so-called 'Kennedy-Round' taking place in Geneva may bring some reduction in the tariff barriers between countries."

Of President Lyndon B. Johnson's pursuit of these same policies for Latin America, Shaw said at the press conference "he's moving in the right direction but he might move faster." He added the "social order" must be reconstructed or the countries "will be in a lot of trouble."

Shaw said he foresaw that Latin countries, fearing both the tyranny of the "right" and of the "left," will see the pendulum swing back and "a central position will be reached."

He said he saw the United States "reaching a modus vivendi (manner of living) with Russia" but China poses "a more serious threat to the world, which I hope we have the wisdom to cope with."

On personal notes, he said after the new ITM rose "like an exclamation point" on the skyline of the Crescent City, he "took more than a year in cutting the umbilical," leaving to someone else the task of carrying on the international trade program "for the next 20 years."

Of his literary ability, the retired executive said he hopes his "alent is equal to playwriting now."

Though bearer of the Croix de Guerre of France and the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star of the United States, the retired U. S. major in the General Staff Corps, aide-de-camp to Gen. Charles Thrasher, said his forebears were peace officers . . .

His grandfather—also named Clay Shaw—was a sheriff of "Bloody Tangipahoa" parish, in the days when blood flowed freely, he said, in many a "local version of the Hatfields and the McCoys."