

Surprise Move By Garrison

F Post 3/23/67

Grand Jury Indicts Shaw

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP) — Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, changing his tactics, obtained a grand jury indictment Wednesday of Clay L. Shaw on a charge of "wilfully and unlawfully conspiring" to murder President John F. Kennedy.

The surprise indictment came a few hours after Dean A. Andrews Jr., an attorney who says Lee Harvey Oswald consulted him in 1963 on minor legal matters, pleaded innocent to a charge of committing perjury before the grand jury.

Garrison had previously indicated he would bypass the grand jury and file a bill of information to bring Shaw, 54, a decorated World War II Army major and retired New Orleans businessman, to trial.

Three state judges ruled last Friday at the conclusion of a four-day preliminary hearing that Garrison had produced enough evidence to warrant holding Shaw for trial.

With an indictment, Garrison can keep the information not brought out at the preliminary hearing secret until an actual trial is held.

Wednesday's indictment was returned to Criminal Dist. Judge Matthew Braniff, one of the three judges who heard last week's testimony. Asked why the case was taken to the grand jury instead of a bill of information being filed, the judge told newsmen: "Gee, I don't know, perhaps because of the seriousness of the situation. It's a public affair. The president of the

United States is involved."

Garrison would not comment on the move. One of his assistants, Alvin Oser, told newsmen: "This is the way Mr. Garrison wanted it."

The grand jury's true bill charged Shaw with "wilfully and unlawfully conspiring with David W. Ferrie, Lee Harvey Oswald and unnamed others to murder John F. Kennedy."

The indictment came after Perry R. Russo, a Baton Rouge insurance salesman who was Garrison's star witness in the preliminary hearing, made a surprise appearance before the grand jury.

Grand jury foreman Albert V. Labiche, a prominent businessman here, said afterwards that Russo was the only witness the

body heard Wednesday in connection with the Kennedy assassination.

Russo, 25, spent an hour and 50 minutes with the grand jury.

Emerging between two of Garrison's assistants, Russo told newsmen: "I can't talk right now."

Russo, his memory aided by hypnotism and sodium pentothal—the so-called truth serum—calmly told the three-judge court he heard Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald plotting to kill Kennedy.

Of the three alleged conspirators listed in the indictment, Shaw, a former managing director of the international Trade Mart here, is the only one still alive.