New Orleans Jury Indicts Shaw On Assassination Plot Charge

Says He, Oswald and Others Conspired to Kill Kennedy —Russo Testifies Again

By MARTIN WALDRON
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NEW ORLEANS, March 22—A New Orleans grand jury returned an indictment today against Clay L. Shaw, a 54-year-old retired businessman and New Orleans socialite, on a charge of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy.

The grand jury acted after hearing two hours of testimony from Perry Raymond Russo, a Baton Rouge insurance salesman who says he was present when the assassination was plotted. The indictment was read by Criminal Court Judge Matthew S. Braniff.

Earlier Mr. Shaw, who has been in the hospital since Friday for rest and treatment of a back injury, received permission from the courts to travel to Mississippi tomorrow. He has been under $10,000 bond, and told the court that he wanted to spend a weekend on the beach.

No date was set for Mr. Shaw's arraignment. Edward Wegmann, an attorney for the defendant, said Mr. Shaw would plead not guilty. He withheld further comment.

The indictment charged that the conspiracy existed between Sept. 1 and Oct. 10, 1963.

Mr. Shaw, who at that time was managing director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart, was in San Francisco on Nov. 22, 1963, the day that Mr. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Tex.

Attorney General Ramsey Clark said in Washington two weeks ago that Mr. Shaw had been investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and that no evidence connecting him with the assassination had been found.

The F.B.I. reports of the investigation of Mr. Shaw, which were furnished to the Warren Commission, have been sealed and have not been opened to the public, as have other reports.

The grand jury charges against Mr. Shaw said that he had conspired with Lee Harvey Oswald, David W. Ferrie "and others" to assassinate Mr. Kennedy.

The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald had slain the President alone and without assistance.

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison has declared that Mr. Shaw, using the name Clay Bertrand, met with Oswald and Mr. Ferrie on a number of occasions at Mr. Ferrie's house, and that the assassination was plotted there.

Mr. Ferrie, a former Eastern Airlines pilot, died last Feb. 22, after his name had been brought into the investigation by Mr. Garrison.

While the grand jury was considering evidence in the assassination investigation, Dean A. Andrews Jr., a New Orleans lawyer, pleaded not guilty to a charge that he had lied to the same grand jury last Thursday.

Mr. Andrews appeared for arraignment before Criminal Court Judge Frank J. Shea today and asked for a jury trial, a request that the judge granted. No date was set for the trial.

Associated Press Wirephoto
Dean A. Andrews Jr. leaves courthouse in New Orleans.

Mr. Andrews was indicted last Thursday after testifying twice before the grand jury. The charges said that Mr. Andrews "wilfully and unlawfully did commit perjury during questioning relative to a conspiracy to murder John F. Kennedy, President of the United States." But they did not say what the alleged perjury was.

Before his indictment, Mr. Andrews had said that he had been unable to identify Mr. Shaw as "Clay Bertrand," a man he had known as a friend of young homomsexuals.

Mr. Andrews had testified before the Warren Commission that Clay Bertrand had called him on the day Mr. Kennedy was murdered and asked him to go to Dallass to defend Oswald.

Mr. Garrison arrested Mr. Shaw on March 1, lodging a complaint that he had participated with Oswald and Mr. Ferrie in a plot to kill President Kennedy.

In a preliminary hearing last week, Mr. Russo—who said he was questioned by the District Attorney's staff after being hypnotized three times—testified that he had overheard the three men plotting the assassination in Mr. Ferrie's apartment.