

SHAW FRIEND'S TRIAL STARTED

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Charged with Striking TV News Cameraman

A friend of the man indicted on a charge of criminal conspiracy in the death of President John F. Kennedy, went on trial Wednesday on a charge of assaulting a television cameraman on the night of Clay L. Shaw's March 1 arrest.

Owen Wright, 45, 4919 Canal, Apt. 10, a friend of Shaw, the man awaiting trial on the conspiracy count, was charged with simple battery on the complaint of WVUE-TV newsman Erby Aucoin.

Criminal District Court Judge Bernard J. Bagert took a defense motion for a directed verdict under advisement after testimony by Aucoin and another newsman.

Phil Johnson, of WWL-TV, testified that Wright struck Aucoin after he told Aucoin not to take any pictures of him.

Aucoin said he was sent to Shaw's residence, 1313 Dauphine, because it was expected that investigators from the district attorney's office were going to seize evidence under warrant.

Aucoin said Wright approached a group of newsmen and asked where Shaw was. He said that when the man faced him he began shooting pictures of him.

"He asked me if I was taking his picture. And then he struck me on my shoulder. I tore my shirt," Aucoin said.

The photographer said Wright neither gave him permission for the pictures nor told him not to take them.

However, Wright testified that he told Aucoin not to take his photograph.

Defense attorney Walter Kelly argued that the defendant had a right to protect himself from a forcible invasion of his privacy.