

An exciting project . . .

For years, the French Quarter was allowed to drift, with no discernible planning on the part of city government for the future. The change which came to the Quarter was largely without design.

Immediate commercial interests seemed to prevail in haphazard fashion.

All that appears to be over. Change in the Quarter is coming by careful design, as it must if it is to retain its historical identity and allure while adapting to modern demands. A great deal of the credit for constructive change in the Quarter belongs with the administration of Mayor Moon Landrieu, which has promoted imaginative innovation in the section.

The French Market Corp.'s plans, announced yesterday, to build a specialty shopping center in

the vicinity of St. Ann, Ursulines, Decatur and N. Pefers is the latest in a series of undertakings designed to revitalize the Quarter. The Bourbon and Royal malls and the renovation of Jackson Square already have brought a new air of excitement and promise to the Vieux Carre.

The new specialty shopping center will make use of the old and the new, with existing buildings to be restored and two new ones to be built. A terraced second story in one of the new buildings will exploit the river view, capitalizing on that natural asset.

The French Quarter long has needed controlled growth, with respect for the past as well as for the present and the future. It appears to be getting it at last, and that bodes well for the future of the entire city.

. . . and the right man to execute it

The French Quarter Corporation's plan, announced yesterday, to build a specialty shopping center in the French Quarter along the lines of San Francisco's famed Ghiaardelli Square is, indeed, an exciting development. And the corporation's board of directors could not have chosen a better man to implement the project than Clay L. Shaw.

Mr. Shaw, who will serve as project manager for the renovation and expansion program, served at one time as managing director of the International Trade Mart and helped put together the new International Trade Mart building.

More important, however, is Mr. Shaw's vast experience as a renovator of French Quarter structures. Indeed, as Mayor Moon Landrieu said, Mr. Shaw "probably has more experience in renovating French Quarter structures than anybody else."

Mr. Shaw, who says the new assignment combines his main interests — historical restoration and civic improvement — sees the renovation project as "a terrific stimulation factor for the French

Quarter, a first step in reviving the French Quarter as the cultural and civic center it once was."

Plans for the Ghiaardelli Square-type center and future projects tie in with the Landrieu Administration's continuing efforts to revitalize the French Quarter, while preserving its cultural integrity.

We are happy to see that a man of Mr. Shaw's ability will play a key role in these efforts.



Clay L. Shaw

Right man for the job