Roscoe and Geoffrey Drummond 3/8/69 Pat

Jury's Rejection of Garrison's Theory Adds Weight to the Warren Report

OF ALL the advocates of the conspiracy theory in President Kennedy's assassination, only one came up with a "conspirator."

And that conspirator turns out to be no conspirator at all. You can't have a conspiracy without conspirators.

District Attorney James Garrison of New Orleans failed to prove his vaunted conspiracy charge against Clay Shaw, and he failed to convince the jury to repudiate the Warren Commission for its findings that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing Mr. Kennedy.

The unanimous jury verdict of innocent for Shaw knocked out of court the only assassination "conspiracy" ever taken into court.

That Oswald never got into court is a large factor in the spread of the conspiracy theory. Oswald himself couldn't be tried because he was murdered before the case could be brought to court. So Oswald was never found legally guilty of President Kennedy's murder.

This is the prime circumstance which generated false rumors and honest doubt as to whether Oswald was the lone assassin. The conspiracy theory became rampant.

NO MATTER how careful, competent or conclusive the investigation by the Warren Commission, the minds of many were open to the most miasmic theories because Oswald's guilt or innocence had never been established before a jury.

At least six books were written attacking the methods, the members and the conclusions of the Warren Report and three years after the assassination the Gallup Poll showed that 64 per cent of Americans believed the conspiracy theory or were uncertain Oswald acted alone.

Now a verdict, based on proceedings before court and jury, adds direct support to the central conclusion of the Warren Commission.

District Attorney Garrison virtually asked the jury for a verdict against the Commission. He made this the centerpiece of his case against Shaw. He got the indictment against Shaw on the ground that Shaw conspired with Oswald to murder the President.

Garrison asked the jury to reverse the verdict of the Warren Commission that there had been no conspiracy.

The jury reversed Garrison.

Garrison branded the Commission's handling of the assassination investigation a "fraud."

IT WASN'T the Warren Commission that the jury decided was fradulent.

Garrison succeeded in getting Shaw indicated as the one whose guilt—if guilt was found—would prove conspiracy and disprove a central theme of the Warren Report.

The jury rejected guilt, acquitted Shaw and thereby added weight to the validity of the Warren Report.

The Commission's judgment that Oswald shot President Kennedy has not been seriously questioned. But its other main conclusions have been seriously questioned and widely doubted — that Oswald had no co-conspirator, that he acted alone, that he was an agent of no foreign government, that he was an agent of nobody but himself.

The New Orleans verdict adds significant weight to the Warren Report because it rests on a court proceeding and a jury verdict which is the only way guilt or innocence can be established by law in these matters.

The court's rejection of conspiracy by the acquittal of Clay Shaw leaves the Warren Commission more persuasive than ever. The doubt wasn't over whether Oswald pulled the trigger. It was over whether someone else helped him either in planning or execution of the crime.

Oswald's part in the assassination is well documented. The New Orleans jury unanimously erased conspiracy the only time it was brought into court.

The work of the Warren Commission is standing well the test of time and trial.

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