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Shaw Called Liar in State Summation

From News Dispatches

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 28—The trial of Clay Shaw was needed for the jury tonight with chief prosecutor James L. Alcock contending the State had proved Clay Shaw "an absolute liar and absolutely guilty" of conspiring to murder President John F. Kennedy.

Alcock asked for a verdict of guilty against the 55-year-old Shaw, charged with criminal conspiracy. Conviction would mean 1 to 20 years in prison for Shaw, who was arrested and charged two years ago—March 1, 1967. Under Louisiana law, nine of the 12 jurors are sufficient for conviction or acquittal.

Final arguments began this afternoon as Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. of Criminal District Court denied the defense's second motion for a directed verdict of acquittal after the State finished its rebuttal.

Alcock recited much of the State's case in his summation to the jury.

"We have here parts of a puzzle," Alcock said. "I am going to try to bring together the parts."

At the outset of the trial, Alcock said, Shaw had been proven a liar unworthy of your belief." Witnesses for the State linked Shaw with Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie, Alcock said, although Shaw denied knowing them.

Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as Kennedy's lone assassin, but the State contends that Oswald and Ferrie, both now dead, plotted with Shaw to assassinate Kennedy in 1963.

Alcock's argument was full of references to coincidences and curious events. He said, for example, that when Shaw first denied guilt after his arrest, his statement referred to Harvey Lee Oswald—the same way Oswald's name was listed

on an application for a hospital job at Jackson, La., according to a State witness.

The 66th and last witness in the trial's 33rd day was a handwriting expert who said it was "highly probable" that Shaw signed the name Clay Bertrand in a guest register.

District Attorney Jim Garrison, who showed up only a few other times in the courtroom, questioned the expert, Elizabeth McCarthy Bailey of Boston, who said she uses her maiden name in her business.

See SHAW, A5, Col. 1

SHAW, From A1

She testified that she had compared Shaw's signature with the signature "Clay Bertrand," which the State contends was Shaw's alias in conspiring with Oswald and Ferrie.

Garrison asked Mrs. Bailey if she had reached a conclusion. She said, "Yes."

"Would you state your conclusion?"

"It's my opinion that it is highly probable that Clay Shaw signed the name Clay Bertrand."

Her testimony clashed with that of a defense witness, an FBI expert, who had testified that Shaw positively did not sign the "Bertrand" name in a New Orleans airport VIP guest register in 1967.

Other Witnesses

Two other rebuttal witnesses testified for the state today. Dr. John M. Nichols, a Univer-

sity of Kansas pathologist, said it would have been impossible for a bullet to pass through Kennedy's neck, as a defense witness said, without fracturing a bone.

Col. Pierre A. Finck, an Army pathologist who was a member of the Kennedy autopsy team, had said X-rays showed no bones were hit by the bullet, one of two that struck Kennedy.

Nichols also challenged the

autopsy team's failure to dissect the throat tract to ascertain the path of the bullet. He said this should have been done. His testimony was aimed at backing the State's contention that Kennedy was killed in a crossfire. The autopsy finding was that both shots entered the back.

Peter Schuster, a photographer for the Orleans Parish Coroner, testified he believed there was a man "holding

something" in a blown-up photograph of the grassy knoll area of Dealey Plaza in Dallas where Kennedy was shot Nov. 22, 1963. The spot is some distance from the Texas School Book Depository from which the Warren Commission said Oswald fired the fatal shots.

Points Out Figure

"Here I think you can see a man, his hair, his eyes, his whole face, as far as I'm con-

cerned," said photographer Peter Schuster. "He appears—appears—to be holding something."

It was one of a number of pictures by amateur photographers presented by the State to back up Garrison's claim that Kennedy was killed in a crossfire.

The facts of the actual assassination had nothing directly to do with Garrison's charge that Shaw conspired in 1963

to kill Kennedy with Oswald and Ferrie.

Murder Probed

But the State went deeply into the Kennedy murder to try to prove Garrison's contentions the Warren Commission missed and other Government officials suppressed the "real facts" that Kennedy was killed by a "crossfire" and a conspiracy.

As if anticipating the later

defense summation, Alcock said today:

"I do not apologize for Vernon Bundy (a narcotics addict) or any other witness the State of Louisiana put on. You do not find bank presidents in the company of Lee Harvey Oswald or David Ferrie."

Bundy testified for the State that he saw Shaw and Oswald meet on the New Orleans waterfront before the assas-

sination and saw Shaw hand Oswald what appeared to be money. Bundy said he was at the waterfront to take narcotics and had been a narcotics user for some time.

Shaw, retired director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart, smoked cigarettes and looked past Alcock to the jury today. When Alcock turned to point an accusing finger at him, Shaw looked him straight in the eye.