

WTOP NEWS

Broadcast House, Washington, D. C. 20016

TELEPHONE
244-5678

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Mr. Bernard Fensterwald
Attorney at Law
927 Fifteenth Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Mr. Fensterwald:

Here is a copy of the WTOP Editorial on Clay Shaw's trial.

Any inquiries concerning editorials should be directed to Mr. Norman Davis, our Editorial Director. He can be reached at the above address and phone number. His extension is 247.

Thank you for your interest.

Rosey Johnson
Newsroom Secretary

enc.

A WTOP EDITORIAL

BROADCAST HOUSE

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POST-NEWSWEEK STATIONS, CAPITAL AREA, INC.

THE TRIAL OF CLAY SHAW

(This Editorial was broadcast March 5 and 6, 1969, over WTOP Radio and Television)

This is a WTOP Editorial.

Now that the dust is settling on the shameful courtroom spectacle staged in New Orleans by District Attorney Jim Garrison, the nation can be reassured that it has survived one more demagogue.

Garrison's boast that the conspiracy trial of Clay Shaw would be "the case of the century" proved to be fragile and reckless; but a scorecard on the proceedings reveals that a number of significant verdicts were rendered.

Clay Shaw, of course, was not guilty. His dignity and reputation have been cruelly tarnished, but his innocence of the charges brought against him is obvious.

District Attorney Garrison is guilty of a shabby performance throughout the whole affair. His one man obsession with an assassination plot was the figment of a careless imagination. His assaults on the credibility of the nation's leadership and the integrity of the nation's government were entirely unsupported by the evidence and were utterly irresponsible.

New Orleans itself was on trial, but the city emerges with good marks. Both inside and outside the courtroom, its people watched with quiet good sense while the charade was being played out.

The Warren Commission comes out of the case with a Scotch verdict--a case not proven. The Commission's findings on the assassination of President Kennedy will be debated for generations, but they have not been impeached by the flamboyant District Attorney from New Orleans.

The American judicial system underwent the most crucial test of all. It is a strong system--and we are a strong nation--because it allows even the bizarre idea a fair hearing. The excesses which make their way into court do not survive very long.

The Shaw case was an unpleasant, needless exercise--but out of it has come a real measure of justice.

This was a WTOP Editorial . . . Norman Davis speaking for WTOP