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Sertoma Club Hears Talk By Weisberg On Shaw Trial

Frederick Sertoma Club members heard Harold Weisberg, local resident and author of "Whitewash I," "Whitewash II," plus five additional books regarding the assassination of John F. Kennedy at their regular meeting.

Weisberg has made many appearances and talks including coast to coast television and guest of the Joe Pyne Show.

During the Jim Garrison investigation of Clay Shaw in New Orleans, Mr. Weisberg said he uncovered a great deal of information and as a result wrote his fourth book entitled "Oswald In New Orleans."

Weisberg began his discussion by telling the club what sort of a man Jim Garrison was. Labeling him a genius as well as naive, Mr. Weisberg called him the latter, since he has the uncanny knack of a lawyer to trust everyone.

"Surrounded by many he considered good friends, Mr. Garrison would not accept the fact that many were informers. He is a man who writes all his own press releases with not one word

included he wouldn't want published. Although a giant of a man at 6½ feet, he always traveled inognito with constant threats on his life."

Mr. Weisberg said Mr. Garrison is one of the most popular and liked men in New Orleans. As district attorney he promised to clean up New Orleans and did.

As for the Clay Shaw trial, Mr. Weisberg didn't work directly on the case, but was able to obtain a great amount of information as a free lance investigator since individuals were hesitant about giving information to the FBI, police, CIA, or other official figures.

In Mr. Weisberg's thinking, the Clay Shaw trial was lost because the Garrison forces were simply not prepared. The trial was set for January 21, one day after the inauguration and one of Garrison's lawyers had never read the case. Only suspicion of evidence was introduced and Mr. Weisberg believes the not-guilty verdict was fair due to the way the case was introduced.

Turning to other aspects of the assassination, Mr. Weisberg believes the entire affair was as his books state—"Whitewash."

He said he believes there was a conspiracy, although quick to point out that when he uses the term conspiracy he doesn't mean involving the communists, our government, or any other large organization; but that merely it had to be more than the work of a single person. In fact, Mr. Weisberg believes on the face of the evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald could not have assassinated the President and wasn't in the book depository at the time of the crime.

Asked why he devotes so much time and energy to the study, Mr. Weisberg clearly points out it's not for the money from selling books since he has actually lost money because his books are not being made available at bookstands. His reason he continues is that as a freedom loving American he does not appreciate the way this case has been han-

dled, particularly by the Warren Commission, and believes the people of this country deserve a better answer as to the truth of the assassination of their President.

Asked by a member if a statement was made by Chief Justice Warren that the real truth cannot be told in our lifetime, Mr. Weisberg confirmed that this was made. Also commenting on the Zapruder film, supposedly sold to Life Magazine for \$25,000, in an interview with Mr. Zapruder, Mr. Weisberg learned Zapruder has been paid \$500,000 by Life to suppress information contained in the film.

Three copies of this film were made by Zapruder; two copies went to the Secret Service and the original and one copy to Life. The amazing thing to Mr. Weisberg is that such an important part of the evidence is owned by a private concern.

This and many other points were brought out by Mr. Weisberg as to why the American people have not been told the truth. It was truly a very interesting meeting with all members staying long after the scheduled meeting to ask questions.

At the regular business session of Sertoma, newly elected President Howard Fisher announced the progress of past president Dave Shafer, who has just undergone major surgery in Baltimore. Word came back that he will be at the next meeting.

Mr. Fisher attended the Sertoma International Convention in Toronto and reported that International Officers elected included: Robert R. Mallicoat, president; K. Bill Walker, Dr. Fred McFall, Plutarco Guzman, vice presidents; and Isaac N. Reynolds, treasurer.

Guest for the evening included David Meadows of Meadows Van & Storage.