

New Orleans DA Continues Probe

Garrison Sure He Has JFK

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP) — Search documents showed Thursday that Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison maintains he has evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay L. Shaw and David W. Ferrie met in September 1963 to discuss "how they would kill John F. Kennedy, President of the United States."

The documents said the evidence about the meetings came from an unnamed informant, whose statements were corroborated while the informant was under the influence of sodium pentothal, or truth serum.

Oswald was named by the Warren Commission report as Kennedy's lone assassin. Shaw, former director of the International Trade Mart here, was arrested by Garrison on

Wednesday night and booked on conspiracy to commit murder. Ferrie, a pilot, died in bed last week while under investigation by Garrison's office.

In an application for a warrant to search Shaw's French Quarter residence Wednesday night, the district attorney's office stated:

"The reason and facts for the request of this search warrant are:

"Affiant has evidence that meetings were held in the apartment of David W. Ferrie at 3330 Louisiana Avenue Parkway and the people present were David W. Ferrie, Clay Shaw (alias Clay Bertrand), and Lee Harvey Oswald and an informant and other persons. These meetings were held in

September 1963, and the above named individuals, namely David W. Ferrie, Lee Harvey Oswald and Clay Shaw (alias Clay Bertrand) were discussing how they would kill John F. Kennedy, President of the United States. At these meetings, there was an agreement and combination among Clay Shaw (alias Clay Bertrand), Lee Harvey Oswald, and David W. Ferrie and others to kill John F. Kennedy. At these meetings there was discussion and agreement to carry out this conspiracy."

At a news conference Thursday, Shaw called his arrest "fantastic." Speaking calmly and at times smiling broadly, Shaw insisted that he had no part in any plot to kill Kennedy. "I did not know Harvey Lee

Plot Evidence

Oswald (sic) nor to the best of my knowledge do I know anyone who knew him," Shaw said. "I have never seen or spoken to Oswald. I am shocked and dismayed at the charges which have been filed against me. I am completely innocent of any such charges."

Earlier in the day, the new U.S. attorney general, Ramsey Clark, said the FBI had investigated Shaw late in 1963 and cleared him of any link with the assassination. "On the evidence that the FBI has, there was no connection found," Clark said in Washington.

No formal charge has been filed against Shaw.

Garrison's application for a warrant to search Shaw's luxurious home was made public

Thursday, along with the actual warrant.

The application said:

"One of the sources of information of the affiant is a confidential informant who was present at these meetings and saw the conspirators and heard the plans. This confidential informant saw David W. Ferrie and Clay Shaw, alias Clay Bertrand, and Lee Harvey Oswald and others and this confidential informant heard these subjects agree to kill John F. Kennedy and heard these subjects discuss the means and manner of carrying out this agreement."

"That the said confidential informant, after giving this statement to the affiant, voluntarily submitted to sodium pen-

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total, commonly called truth serum which was administered under the care and control and supervision of the coroner for the Parish of Orleans, a medical doctor. That the same confidential informant, while under the sodium pentothal, verified, corroborated and reaffirmed his earlier statements."

The search warrant was signed by Louis von, an investigator for Garrison, and subscribed before Judge Matthew S. Braniff, judge of Criminal District Court, Section B.

Shaw, who was released on \$10,000 bond Wednesday night, issued a statement Thursday in which he expressed shock at his arrest and denied taking part in a plot to kill Kennedy.

"I am shocked and dismayed at the charges which have been filed against me," he said. "I am completely innocent of any such charges. I have not conspired with anyone at any time or any place to murder our late and esteemed president, John F. Kennedy, or any other individual."

"I've always had only the highest and utmost respect and admiration for Mr. Kennedy. I do not know Harvey Lee Oswald nor to the best of my knowledge do I know anyone who knew him. I have never seen or spoken to Oswald where anyone I knew was associated with him."

In answer to a question about the name "Clay Bertrand," Shaw said: "I don't know of any Clay Bertrand and I never used any aliases."

Asked about Ferrie, he said: "I never met, as far as I know. Mr. Dave Ferrie. I was never in his apartment."

Shaw said Garrison had first contacted him about last Christmas time.

A preliminary hearing for Shaw has been set for March 14. It was requested by Garrison — an unusual step for the prosecution. Guy Johnson, attorney for Shaw, said "we do not understand the motivation of Mr. Garrison."

Atty. Gen. Clark was asked in Washington if Shaw had been checked out by the FBI and found clear in the assassination. "That's right," Clark replied.

The search warrant showed that the objects taken from Shaw's luxurious home included five whips, pieces of chain, two pieces of leather, one black hood and cape, a shotgun and case and an Army cartridge

bullet.

The name Clay Bertrand was first mentioned in 1963 by Dean Andrews Jr., a local attorney who only Thursday was subpoenaed by Garrison for questioning.

Andrews told investigators that shortly after Oswald was arrested in Dallas, Tex., a man named Clay Bertrand telephoned him and asked him to represent Oswald. The Warren Commission said it found no man named Bertrand involved.

Talking calmly to newsmen in his lawyer's office and smiling at times, Shaw said Garrison had quizzed him about Oswald passing out pro-Castro leaflets in front of the old International Trade Mart, where Shaw was managing director until 1965.

A bachelor, Shaw directed the mart for 18 years before retiring to devote his time to real estate and personal interests.

Told of Atty. Gen. Clark's statement about him, Shaw said: "I am delighted."

Ferrie, a free-lance pilot whom Garrison has described as "one of history's most important individuals," was found dead in his bed, nude. Coroner Nicholas Chetta ruled that death resulted from natural causes — a ruptured artery in the brain.

Garrison has continued to maintain that Ferrie committed suicide while under investigation. Ferrie had been interrogated by Garrison's office in November 1963 — 72 hours after Kennedy was killed — and again last November.

Shaw was in San Francisco on the day Kennedy was killed, Nov. 22, 1963, staying at the St. Francis Hotel, the States-Item reported Thursday. The newspaper said Shaw had gone there to deliver an address to trade officials.

The preliminary hearing for Shaw will consider the booking under revised Statute 14 of the Louisiana Code "relative to conspiring and entering into an agreement or combination with one or more persons for the purpose of committing the crime of murder of John F. Kennedy."

Under Louisiana law, a person convicted of conspiracy to commit murder may be imprisoned for from one to 20 years.