

Statement by a Department Spokesman

Mr. Edward F. Wegmann, a lawyer in New Orleans, wrote the Department of Justice on May 24, 1967, requesting a public clarification of news stories concerning his client, Mr. Clay Shaw. He referred to an impromptu press interview of the Attorney General on March 2, 1967. This statement is in response to Mr. Wegmann's request.

The FBI investigation in New Orleans following the assassination of President Kennedy covered allegations by Dean A. Andrews, Jr. which included a reference to "Clay Bertrand." "Clay Bertrand" was not identified as a real person. No evidence was found that Clay Shaw was ever called "Clay Bertrand."

The Attorney General's comment on March 2 that Mr. Shaw was involved in the investigation was based on a briefing that morning. The Attorney General has since determined that this was erroneous. Nothing arose indicating a need to investigate Mr. Shaw. As the Attorney General stated in the interview, no connection between Mr. Shaw and the assassination was found in the thorough investigation by the FBI.

The Department of Justice is convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald alone assassinated President Kennedy.

Press interview with Ramsey Clark, March 2, 1967.

Question: General Clark, you said two days ago after your nomination was announced that you would hope that District Attorney Garrison would turn over any information he has from his New Orleans probe. Has he turned over any information on the arrest of this latest gentleman?

Answer: No, he has not. We haven't heard from District Attorney Garrison and I feel that, as I said the other day, if he really has any information or evidence he has an obligation to bring it to the Federal authorities who have been involved in the overall investigation. He has not at this date. I remain doubtful that he has anything.

Question: Has the Justice Department made any attempt to contact District Attorney Garrison about this?

Answer: We have not made any contact in view of his statements over the last week or so.

Question: Mr. Clark, do you have information yourself about Clay Shaw?

Answer: He was involved in an FBI investigation in the New Orleans area in November-December 1963. We have the evidence that's there involved and you can assume what the conclusions were from the Warren Commission report.

Question: He was not mentioned in the Warren Commission report, was he?

Answer: He was not.

Question: So, you don't believe he did have any connection with the --

Answer: On the evidence that the FBI had there was no connection found.

Question: You say that he was checked out and found clear, more or less?

Answer: That's right. That's true.