

SHAW WAS NOT PROBED BY FBI

Clark Statement Wrong,
Says Justice Dept.

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(Times-Picayune Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON — The Department of Justice announced in Washington Friday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had never investigated Clay L. Shaw in connection with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The comment by a department spokesman was contained in a statement by him which had been requested by Edward F. Wegmann, one of Shaw's attorneys, in order to clarify a March 2 statement by U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark during an impromptu press conference in Washington.

In addition, the spokesman said Friday that the Justice Department "is convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald alone assassinated President Kennedy."

Shaw, the 54-year-old retired International Trade Mart managing director, has been charged with participating in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy. No date for his trial has been set.

CLARIFICATION SOUGHT

Wegmann requested the Justice Department in a letter to make a clarifying statement on the ground that the attorney general's statement involving Shaw was incorrect.

The Justice Department spokesman said Friday night:

"The FBI investigation in New Orleans following the assassination of President Kennedy covered an allegation by

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 2, Col. 1

SECTION ONE—PAGE TWO

THE TIMES-PI

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Continued from Page 1

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 the interview no connec-

tion 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."

The Washington Post Friday in an editorial captioned "Garrison's Conspiracy," stated:

"Jim Garrison, the rambunctious district attorney of New Orleans, has established one thing so far in his investigation of President Kennedy's assassination. He has proved that a great many people in this country are so eager to find some plot behind the President's

death that they will grasp at straws.

CONSPIRACY THEORY

"According to a Harris Survey published in this newspaper Monday Morning, one in every four Americans has been converted to the conspiracy theory in the last three or four months. Since nothing has happened in that time concerning the assassination except the opening of Mr. Garrison's circus, the only thing the change can be attributed to is that circus and the publicity it has had.

"But it is far easier to stir the doubts of all of us who hate to think that Mr. Kennedy died only because of the malevolence of one man than it is to produce evidence of a sinister plot. And Mr. Garrison has yet to produce in public any evidence unless one considers as evidence the flights of fantasy that can be woven from bits of facts or the theories that seem to spring in full bloom from Mr. Garrison's brow.

"Mr. Garrison does have an answer for everything — the press hindered his investigation; the CIA won't tell him what he wants to know; expended cartridges were not found at Dallas because men were designated to pick them up immediately; bullets were not found because they were of a type that disintegrate on contact; etc. But his answers are not facts or, even less, evidence."