

Justice Dept. Admits Shaw Not Probed

Clay Shaw, a figure in a New Orleans district attorney's investigation of President Kennedy's assassination, has not been investigated by the FBI, the Justice Department announced yesterday in admitting an error on Shaw.

On March 2, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark told newsmen here that Shaw was involved in an FBI investigation of the assassination in 1963. At that time, Clark indicated that the FBI had found nothing to connect Shaw with the assassination.

Yesterday, the department issued a statement which, while continuing to insist that Shaw had no connection with the President's murder, conceded that Clark had been wrong in saying that Shaw figured in the FBI probe in New Orleans.

The department's statement was prompted by a request for "clarification" of Clark's statement to newsmen by a lawyer who is representing Shaw.

Shaw, a New Orleans businessman, has been indicted on charges of conspiracy to murder President Kennedy. He has not yet been tried.

Probe Criticized

The charge against him is one result of District Atty. Jim Garrison's highly publicized investigation of the assassination.

Garrison has refused to accept the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing President Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

The Garrison investigation has been discredited, publicly and privately, and sharply criticized by high-ranking federal officials.

There was nothing in yesterday's statement by the Justice Department to give any noticeable support to the Garrison investigation of Shaw.

The department said the

request for clarification of the supposed investigation of Shaw by the FBI was made by Edward F. Wegmann, a New Orleans lawyer.

Garrison has said that Shaw's role in the assassination was carried out when he was using the name "Clay Bertrand." That name figured in the Department's statement yesterday.

Text of Statement

The department's statement said:

"The FBI investigation in New Orleans following the assassination covered allegations by Dean A. Andrews, 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 was based on a briefing that morning. The attorney general has determined that this was erroneous. Nothing arose indicating a need to investigate Mr. Shaw.

"As the attorney general stated, no connection between 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."

A department spokesman refused to identify the official or officials who had briefed Clark on March 2.