

*Shaw for
the
investigation
of
the
assassination*



*Dear hel - anything might
say about this -
Would be an excellent
speech - 10/11/68*

The Garrison Case

CLAYTON FRITCHEY

WASHINGTON.

In Washington it is Presidential Inaugural week. In New Orleans it was to be Presidential murder trial week. After two incredible years of delay, District Attorney Jim Garrison was finally bringing to trial Clay Shaw, the New Orleans businessman he has accused of conspiring to kill John F. Kennedy.

Since he arrested Shaw on Mar. 1, 1967, Garrison has continuously tried the defendant on every front page in the country, and on radio and television, and in magazines and books as well. Everywhere, in fact, except in court.

Now, strangely, on the eve of the trial, Garrison's chief assistant, James L. Alcock, has announced that the district attorney's office is not ready for trial. Alcock said it was "absolutely necessary" to have the X-rays and photographs of the autopsy withheld by the National Archives. Garrison has maintained that they would show that President Kennedy had been struck by bullets coming from at least two directions.

PARTY LINE

Now the New Orleans district attorney's office has been given two weeks by the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions to show that the X-rays and photographs of the autopsy are needed for the trial.

But if Garrison's case is as airtight as he has repeatedly said it is, he would seem to have nothing to fear. The day of reckoning for him or Shaw has to come sooner or later, although there were those who believed the defendant might crack up or take his own life during the long, severe strain he has been under, with Garrison thereby winning more or less by default. **(BALLS!)**

"In the early days of my arrest," the quiet Shaw recently said, "Mr. Garrison said to a journalist that I'd never come to trial. I'd com-
*** WIPPS, ETC.**

mit suicide first. That gave me very little worry - I'm not the type." And apparently he isn't.

The charges of Garrison and other detractors of the Warren Commission report have poisoned the public mind against the official assassination findings to such an extent that the Harris Poll reports that two-thirds of Americans are now convinced that President Kennedy was the victim of a "conspiracy" and conspiracy is what Shaw is accused of.

The prosecutor has said, "The case should be evaluated in a courtroom. If it's a fraud, I should be removed from office." Quite so, except that it isn't that simple. The trial, if it is ever held, may settle Shaw's fate, but not necessarily Garrison's.

The prosecutor, in his pre-trial publicity campaign, virtually made co-defendants out of the CIA, FBI, Justice Dept. Lyndon Johnson, and the "Feds" in general. In charging the CIA with blocking his investigation, Garrison said, "We have a stone wall there." **SO?**

Shaw's attorneys have tried in vain to get him a change of venue on the grounds that the case has been so highly publicized in New Orleans that the defendant can not get a fair trial there.

Some critics of Garrison have also indicted the press for giving him so much attention, but, as Sir Arthur Goodheart, the legal scholar, has pointed out, it is difficult for the media to defend itself against the sensationalist methods of a clever prosecutor.

"There has been a lot of talk about trial in the newspapers," Sir Arthur says, "but that isn't true in the Garrison case. They must publish what the District Attorney says. This is an example of trial by the District Attorney, which is the most unfortunate feature of our American law system."

come home to roost (Gorb's chicken)