

Trial of Shaw Ordered in

Denver Post 3/22/67

NEW ORLEANS—(AP)—A three-judge panel ruled in a preliminary hearing Friday that wealthy retired business leader Clay L. Shaw should become the first man to stand trial concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In ordering the trial for Shaw on a charge of conspiracy to murder the president, Judge Bernard J. Bagert said at the conclusion of the four-day hearing, "This

court finds sufficient evidence has been presented to establish probable cause that a crime has been committed."

The ruling came on Shaw's 54th birthday.

The decision was a first-round victory for Jim Garrison, this town's 6-foot-6 district attorney. Garrison startled the world a month ago with a statement that he had "solved" the Kennedy assassination, would

make arrests, and would obtain convictions.

Garrison, unorthodox and controversial in his five years as district attorney, took an unusual step in asking for the preliminary hearing—a tactic usually resorted to by defense lawyers.

The next step:

"I will file a bill of information," Garrison drawled to newsmen shortly after

Kennedy Slaying Plot

the panel announced its unanimous decision. He would not say when the action would be taken.

Arraignment and trial come afterward. No dates were set.

"The district attorney selects the date and time a person will be tried," said Judge Bagert, who had asked two of his fellow Criminal District Court judges to

sit with him at the preliminary hearing because of its importance.

After the decision, Bill Gurvich, chief investigator for Garrison's office, told reporters:

"We won. If we had needed more goods we would have brought them in."

Perry Raymond Russo, 25, was Garrison's star witness. Russo, a Baton Rouge

insurance salesman, told the court he was present in the New Orleans apartment of David W. Ferrie in mid-September 1963 and heard Lee Harvey Oswald, Shaw and Ferrie plotting to assassinate Kennedy.

The plan, Russo testified, involved "triangulation of crossfire," diversionary

Continued on page 2.

FROM PAGE 1

shooting, a possible flight to Mexico and Cuba, the sacrificing of one man as a scapegoat to permit the others to escape. Of the three alleged conspirators, only Shaw, who stepped down as managing director of the International Trade Mart here 16 months ago, is alive. Oswald was shot fatally by

Jack Ruby, in the Dallas police station two days after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of Kennedy.

Vernon Bundy, 29, an admitted narcotics addict, walked over to Shaw in court Friday and put his hand over the accused's head, identifying him as the man he saw with Oswald at Lake Pontchartrain.

Neither Bundy nor Russo testified before the Warren Commission.

U. S. Atty. Gen. Ramsay Clark said Shaw was investigated by the FBI and cleared of any part in the assassination. Shaw said earlier this month he was not aware of any FBI probe of his activities.

Ferrie gave a statement to the FBI shortly after the assassination. Garrison had arrested him briefly three days after the slaying in Dallas.

The Warren Commission said it had found no evidence that Oswald was involved with any person or group in a conspiracy, but it noted:

"Because of the difficulty of proving negatives to a certainty the possibility of others being involved . . . cannot be established categorically."