

Tuesday A.M. March 28, 1989

Disabled protesters throw a Greyhound bus off schedule with that they called the first "crawl on" in

New JFK exhibit will open

Dallas project upsets Sixth Floor backers

Associated Press

DALLAS — A "JFK assassination center" backed by two area businessmen is scheduled to open in June about two blocks from the new Sixth Floor exhibit flourishing at the site of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

And while Cleburne architect Gary Shaw and Arlington builder Larry N. Howard said yesterday they intend no ill in opening the for-profit exhibit, Sixth Floor organizers were said to be not very pleased by the news.

Howard said one landlord near the assassination site refused to lease space for the new center after being contacted by a representative of the Dallas County Historical Foundation, organizers of the Sixth Floor.

And historical foundation chairwoman Lindalyn Adams confirmed that she did telephone one investor in the West End Marketplace, the proposed exhibit's current landlord, "to make sure they were aware of the content."

The Sixth Floor is housed on the sixth floor of the Dallas County Administration Building, formerly the Texas School Book Depository, from which Lee Harvey Oswald is believed to have fired the shots that killed Kennedy.

"We were concerned with quality (in planning the Sixth Floor) and we have

always been concerned about showing anything of a violent nature," Adams said. "It was a violent act. I would hope that it (the new exhibit) would be done with dignity."

Some of the photographs taken during autopsies performed on Kennedy and assassin Lee Harvey Oswald are quite graphic, but Shaw said none of these would be shown in the new exhibit.

"That's the stupidest thing that could be asked," he said. "I've had access to those photographs for about 10 years (More on CENTER on next page)

and have never publicly shown them. We have no intention of doing anything of that nature. We just want to tell what happened that day and try to make some sense of the investigations that have failed."

Shaw, 50, and Howard, 48, have collected assassination materials for years and even contributed to the creation of the Sixth Floor. They said they do not understand the opposition.

"We're trying to meet a need," Shaw said. "There is overwhelming public interest still in the subject and will be for years to come."

The announcement came five weeks to the day after the Sixth Floor opened its doors to national attention Feb. 20. That exhibit has averaged about 1,000 visitors a day since opening. Just Fri-

day, a capacity crowd — 2,100 visitors — filed through its doors.

But Shaw said the Sixth Floor's traffic flow had nothing to do with their decision to open a second exhibit concentrating on investigations and conspiracy theories.

"The purpose is primarily to get information out to the public about the assassination itself and the controversy surrounding it," said Shaw, who has researched the assassination since 1965. "The thing that we hear when they come out of the Sixth Floor is more questions than anything else, and we're going to give them a point to where some of those questions can be answered."

But Shaw said the center also repre-

sents a potential revenue source for "future research in Dallas" and for the Assassination Archives and Research Center, a non-profit center that Shaw and Washington attorney Bernard Fensterwald Jr. founded in 1984.

At 3,000 square feet, the Dallas center will be about a third the size of The Sixth Floor. It will include a retail outlet for Kennedy assassination memorabilia, an exhibit of "artifacts" and a 20-minute film of the assassination. The center also will serve as an archive of files, photographs, films and memorabilia for people researching the Kennedy assassination.

Shaw, who refused to say how much was being invested, said ticket prices would be "in the \$4 to \$5 price range."