

Shaw Is Arraigned, Pleads Not Guilty

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By JACK DEMPSEY

Clay L. Shaw formally faced his accusers today and entered a plea of not guilty to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's charges that he conspired to murder President John F. Kennedy.

The tall, white-haired defendant stood at rigid attention in the criminal district courtroom of Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. and listened to the indictment read in the clear voice of clerk Helen Sullivan.

His attorneys immediately entered a plea of not guilty to the charge that the 54-year-old Shaw conspired with David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald to assassinate Kennedy at Dallas in 1963.

At the request of the defense, Judge Haggerty gave Shaw's attorneys until May 5 to file whatever special pleadings they may choose to enter.

He granted the state an equal amount of time to reply and, after the arraignment, defense lawyer F. Irvin Dymond predicted Shaw's trial is from three to six months away.

A tight band of security was clamped on the ornate, 19th century courtroom before Shaw and his lawyers entered shortly after 10 a. m.

Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Louis J. Heyd Jr. and Parish Prison Warden A. J. Falkenstein personally supervised security measures. Plainclothesmen or matrons frisked everyone who entered the courtroom, searching for possible weapons or concealed recording devices.

SEVERAL MEMBERS of the New Orleans news media were permitted to sit at a table inside the railing which

divides spectators from court officials and attorneys. Out-of-town reporters and magazine writers sat in the crowded spectator area.

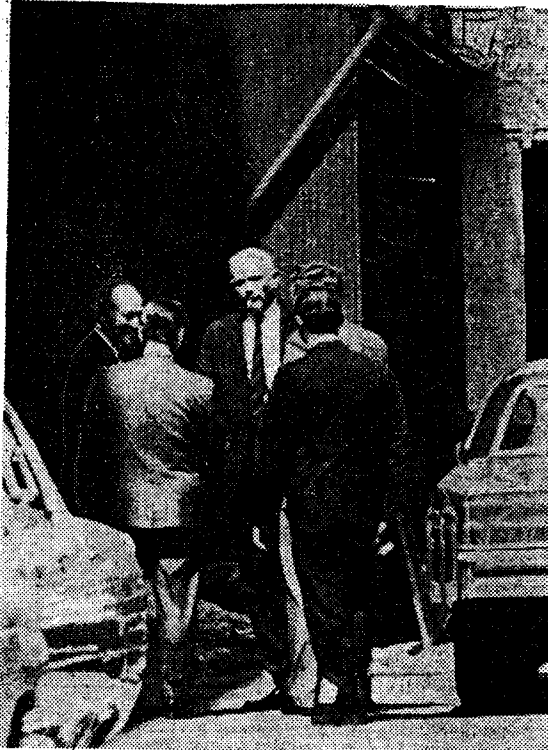
Shaw, dressed conservatively in a dark brown suit, white shirt and tan-and-black striped tie, entered the court from S. Broad, flanked by defense lawyers Dymond, William Wegmann and Edward Wegmann.

Judge Haggerty took the bench moments after the scheduled arraignment time of 10:30 a.m.

"Are there any motions by the state?" he asked.

Asst. Dist. Atty. William Alford arose from behind the prosecutor's table and replied, "Your Honor, if it please the court, the state would move for the arraign-

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—States-Item photo.
CLAY L. SHAW, facing camera, confers with attorneys at Parish Prison entrance to Criminal Courts bldg. today en route to his arraignment on a charge he plotted to kill President John F. Kennedy.

ment at this time of Clay L. Shaw."

"**VERY WELL,**" Judge Haggerty intoned. "Will Mr. Shaw and his attorneys please step forward."

The four men moved forward and took seats before the bar as Haggerty asked Dymond if he objected to the reading of the formal bill of indictment which was handed down by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

"The defense will request that the bill of indictment be read at this time," Dymond replied.

THE FOUR MEN stood, Shaw next to his old friend and attorney, Edward Wegmann, with Dymond on his immediate left.

Shaw, who stands 6 feet, 4 inches and weighs 220 pounds, came to the sort of rigid attention he was taught in the U.S. Army.

"One, Clay L. Shaw . . ."

Mrs. Sullivan, who is the judge's sister, began, and her voice carried the charges to the back benches of the court.

The indictment accuses Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman, of conspiring with Ferrie, Oswald "and others" to murder Kennedy at Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

THE READING over, Dymond said, "At this time, the defense would like to enter a plea of not guilty and request that the court grant us 30 days in which time to file whatever technical pleadings we deem necessary."

Judge Haggerty granted the request and gave the state 30 days to study and reply to any motions which are filed.

When the deadline for pleadings passes on May 5, the judge said he would set a hearing date on whatever requests are made.

That was the end of the arraignment. It required less than three minutes.

In the corridor outside the

courtroom, Dymond was besieged with questions from newsmen who wanted to know when he would file pleadings and what they might include. To all queries, the lawyer smiled and answered:

"We'd rather not answer those questions at this time."

He did say he believed the trial of Shaw was "anywhere from three to six months" away, adding his estimate amounted to a "calculated guess."

In the hall, Shaw was more relaxed than he was during the arraignment. He smiled and chatted for some minutes with his bail bondsman, Bernard Pettingill. Shaw is free on \$10,000 bond.

IN DEVELOPMENTS outside the courtroom, Garrison's chief investigator, William Gurchich, commented for the first time on attempts to question Sergio Arcacha Smith at Dallas.

Smith is free on \$1,500 bond after his arrest at Dallas Monday under a New Orleans warrant charging him with conspiracy to steal munitions from a Schlumberger Wells Service dump at Houma in 1961.

Gurchich said he and Asst. DA James Alcock flew to Dallas in a private plane about Feb. 25 to question Arcacha.

"**HE KNEW WE** were coming," the investigator said. "We called him long distance and told him we were coming."

Gurchich said he and Alcock finally tracked Arcacha down at 9 p. m. and found him in the Dallas police building with two detectives. Arcacha refused to talk unless the Dallas officers were present.

"We told him we would speak with him only in the presence of his attorney," Gurchich related. "Then he told us his attorney was William Alexander of the Dallas DA's office."

"**WE TOLD HIM** that was no good," he added.

Gurchich said he and Alcock were in the Dallas area or three days and talked with "several other people."

The DA's investigator sharply criticized Arcacha for telling newsmen and televi-

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sion reporters that New Orleans officers were in Dallas to question him.

"Our presence in Dallas was not made public by us," Gurvich said. "It was Mr. Arcacha, himself, who appeared on television."