

Garrison Lashes 'Obstruction'

Shaw Trial Jan. 21

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison today set the long-delayed conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw for Jan. 21, saying, "The moment of truth is at hand."

Garrison again lashed out at what he called obstruction to his investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and predicted that there would be more attempts to delay the trial.

The big DA, center of the internationally famous investigation, maintained, "the only way they can stop me is to kill me."

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Judge Edward A. Haggerty, acting in conjunction with Garrison's choice of a trial date, said this morning he has ordered the names of 250 potential jurors for the trial. The stage was set for to-

day's press conference announcement by a Monday decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, which refused to hear Shaw's plea that he is being unjustly prosecuted on charges of conspiring to kill the President.

Garrison has conducted his own nationwide probe into the 1963 assassination of Kennedy in Dallas.

Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman and former director of the International Trade Mart, was arrested March 1, 1967, and charged with conspiracy under the state statutes.

Garrison contends that Shaw took part in a New Orleans-based conspiracy to kill the President. He was indicted by a grand jury, pleaded innocent and has consistently denied any connection with the crime.

In a preliminary hearing for Shaw, state witness Percy Raymond Russo testified he overheard Shaw plotting the President's death here in September, 1963, with someone he identified as Lee Harvey Oswald and others.

The Warren Commission Report found that Oswald acted alone to assassinate Kennedy in Dealey Plaza, Dallas. Garrison said today he would oppose every attempt to further delay the trial.

He said the new administration of Richard M. Nixon offers "new hope." The DA

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pointed out that Nixon will take office Jan. 20 and said, "We are requesting that the Clay Shaw trial be set for Jan. 21."

GARRISON TOLD reporters he was hopeful that the new government in Washington would realize that it cannot interfere with justice in a state court.

He said the federal govern-

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ment did not want the case to go to trial, "They don't want the people in America to know that the Warren Commission Report is a complete fraud."

It was then that Garrison said the only way he could be stopped would be through death.

"We are going to trial with the Clay Shaw case," he said. "The moment of truth is at hand."

Asked if he still was confident about the outcome of the case, Garrison said he did not want to skirt the ques-

tion but he also did not want to be unfair to Shaw.

FINALLY, HE answered the question by saying, "I am just as confident as I ever was about the case."

Garrison said there had been attempts at obstruction on two fronts:

One, he said, was on the legal level, "all the way up to the Supreme Court."

The other obstruction, he said, was "behind the scenes." Garrison described this as character assassination and an internal revenue investigation. The DA said he had been offered a federal judgeship if he would drop the Shaw case.