



Garrison

Shaw

History's greatest scandal?

Garrison Case Still a Mystery After 1½ Years

NEW ORLEANS, La. (UPI) — In November 1966, Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison began poking into what he implied might be the greatest scandal in American history. Eighteen months later he is still probing and promising and the world is still waiting for his proof of a conspiracy in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Today there is still no indication when Garrison will back up his February 1967 statement that he had solved the assassination.

Even the long-delayed conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw, scheduled for June 11, might not bring much new about what happened in Dallas, Tex., Nov. 22, 1963.

IN THE last year, Garrison has stretched his controversial probe to such high and widespread levels that the Shaw trial has shriveled in significance. The quiet, 55-year-old retired businessman has become almost a minor figure in the case.

What started as a charge of conspiracy at a small New Orleans house party has turned into a blanket accusation of deceit and conspiracy against the federal government.

What started as a criticism

of Warren Commission ignorance has turned into charges that President Johnson, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, former CIA chief Allen Dulles, the Warren Commission and Dallas police have lied to the American people.

What started as an alleged conspiracy by Shaw, the late David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald at a weird party has expanded into an alleged coast-to-coast conspiracy involving homosexuals, anti-Castro Cubans, militant right-wingers, CIA associates and numerous gunmen.

THE LIST of persons accused or subpoenaed has extended from Florida to California, from New Orleans to New York.

Garrison has charged more than a credibility gap in his criticism of federal officials.

"To the men who got control of the American government on Nov. 22, 1963, everything we have developed is old stuff," he said in one news release.

"The main function of the Warren Commission was to conceal the assassination of the President by an ambush of CIA employes," he added.

THE SCOPE of Garrison's charges has grown almost monthly.

He has constructed a pyramid of theories, one resting and dependent upon another. Attempts by newsmen to obtain details have met little success. Garrison has refused to grant interviews and told newsmen he did not want to tip off his suspects or discuss the Shaw case while it is still under litigation.

Garrison has said:

Oswald was not a Communist, never fired a shot at Dallas, notified the FBI of the approaching assassination and was just a "patsy" for the murder team.

Former CIA employes played a major role in the assassination.

Anti-Castro Cubans turned on Kennedy after the Bay of Pigs invasion failed.

As many as 15 persons were involved in the assassination.

Jack Ruby killed Oswald to silence him.

Proof bearing on all this is not likely to come out at the Shaw trial. The long series of preliminary hearings has indicated that there may actually be little connection between the Shaw case and Garrison's over-all probe, or the actual assassination.

Garrison himself, in fighting a change of venue, has said he always kept his statements about the Shaw case and the assassination separated.