

SHAW LAWYERS OPPOSE FILMING

Notify Judge, Garrison,
PBL Attorney

A proposal that the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw be filmed by Public Broadcast Laboratory, a Ford Foundation grantee, was objected to Friday by attorneys for Shaw.

Under the proposal, the trial would be filmed but not televised publicly until the case had been resolved. The proposal was made in January to Criminal Court Judge Edward T. Haggerty Jr., who will preside at the trial, and was endorsed by District Attorney Jim Garrison.

Objection was voiced Friday in a letter to Haggerty from Edward F. Wegmann, an attorney for Shaw, with copies being sent to Garrison, and to Benjamin C. Toledano, attorney for PBL.

The letter of objection reads as follows:

"My colleagues, Messrs. F. Irvin Dymond and William J. Wegmann, have asked me to respond to the request you made of us during the conference called by you for Friday, Jan. 26, 1968, to discuss the proposal of the Public Broadcast Laboratory that they be allowed to televise the trial proceedings in the matter entitled "State of Louisiana vs. Clay L. Shaw," currently pending in your court.

"We have noted from the public press of Jan. 27, 1968, that the district attorney and his staff approve and endorse this project.

"In accordance with your request, we have considered the proposal and have concluded that, as counsel for Mr. Shaw, we will not consent to the television or photographing of the trial proceedings under any conditions, circumstances, suggested controls or other procedures.

It is our considered opinion that the television or photographing of the trial proceedings, as proposed, would result in Mr. Shaw being deprived of the judicial serenity and calm to which he is entitled.

"We have, from the very inception of these proceedings, made a concerted effort to preserve Mr. Shaw's constitutional rights, most especially that which guarantees to him a fair trial in a public tribunal, having an atmosphere of calmness and serenity rather than an atmosphere of prejudice and passion. To consent to the televising or photographing of the trial proceedings would, in our opinion, be to aid and abet those who are apparently determined to do all in their power to create an atmosphere of prejudice, passion and tyrannical power.

"You no doubt are aware of the fact that on Thursday, Feb. 1, 1968, a witness who was summoned from Omaha, Neb., to appear in court for the purpose of a subsequent appearance before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, saw fit, for his own safeguard and protection to come to court surrounded by three armed bodyguards. This incident is indicative of the present atmosphere."