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People Outnumber Seats for Shaw Trial--Sheriff

Press Spots Number 100;
Requests, 300

Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. said that he is having trouble finding seats for people who want to attend the Jan. 21 trial of Clay Shaw.

"For instance," said Heyd in an interview, "we have set aside about 100 seats for the news media. I don't know the exact number of press requests we have had, but it's near 300."

Heyd said "about 30 to 35 deputies will be assigned to the case" to aid in security measures.

According to Heyd, closed circuit television into his office has been set up, giving him a look into the courtroom and the hallways. "I'll have some extra men in our office to cover any type of crowd scene or any difficulty that may arise," he said.

Heyd said the Criminal Courts Building will be guarded around the clock. "We are going to provide as much security as possible in this complex area," he explained.

Asked if the closed circuit television of the courtroom couldn't somehow be used by the overflow of reporters, Heyd answered, "It would have to be okayed by Judge (Edward A.) Haggerty. My impression is it is strictly a security measure and not a gain for the news media. Actually with 100 seats set aside, we should be able to take care of most of

the news media with one seat and then, of course, they'll have to work a pool system."

Heyd said all members of the news media who expect to attend sessions of the trial should confirm their seating with his office prior to Jan. 21.

"Those who were issued permanent - type identification badges in September and have no changes to make may check in by telephone," said Heyd. "All other persons will be required to report to the Sheriff's office on Jan. 16, 17 or 20 to have identification processed."

"Press representatives who have badges but who have changed agency affiliation since September will also be required to report to the office to have their credentials updated."

Heyd said due to shortage of space in the courtroom, there will be a press pool to cover the phase of the trial involving selection of a jury. He said as soon as a probable starting date for the trial itself can be ascertained, his office will arrange for two additional days of identification processing.

Telephone confirmation may be made to his assistant, Mrs. Nina Sulzer, at 822-8000, said Heyd. Processing will be done in the Sheriff's office, 2700 Tulane ave., from 9 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Jan. 16, 17 and 20.

Shaw is charged with allegedly conspiring to assassinate the late President John F. Kennedy in 1963. President Kennedy was murdered in Dallas, Tex., Nov. 22, 1963.