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Garrison to Open

District Attorney Jim Garrison will personally make the state's opening statement to the jury in the trial of Clay L. Shaw, the States-Item learned today.

Garrison, whose investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy led to the indictment of Shaw on charges of conspiring to kill the President, has made only one brief appearance so far in the 12-day-old trial.

But courthouse sources today indicated he will make a lengthy statement of the state's case as soon as the jury selection process is completed.

Jury selection continued to drag on today. A panel of 12 has been sworn in, but two alternates must still be picked.

JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY JR. summoned 150 jurors to appear this morning, but only 144 showed up. Of

these, 103 were quickly excused for medical reasons, fixed opinions or financial problems.

Questioning of the remaining 41 potential jurors began shortly before noon.

Thus far in the trial, most of the state's courtroom work has been done by assistant DA James Alcock, named by Garrison as chief prosecutor before the trial got under way.

ASKED TODAY IF GARRISON would make the opening statement, Alcock nodded affirmatively and said:

"Yes, I believe so."

In court today for the first time was author Mark Lane, a leading critic of the Warren Commission which reported that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing

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Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963. Garrison contends Shaw conspired with Oswald and others to kill the President.

LANE SAT BEHIND THE STATE'S table and conferred frequently with assistant DA Alvin Oser.

Courtroom observers expressed some hope that the two alternate jurors would be picked today, so that the opening statements by both state and defense could come tomorrow.

Each side has a peremptory challenge, by which it can reject a juror without giving a reason, for each of the alternates.

The state used one of its challenges Saturday, and will get no more until the first alternate is chosen.

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—Associated Press photo.
CLAY SHAW WEARS A SMILE as he arrives for his third week in court on charges he conspired to murder President John F. Kennedy. Usually Shaw and his attorneys drive into Parish Prison next to the court but today he jokingly told newsmen "we had to catch the bus because we are getting poor."