

Mr. Weisberg,

This is just for
your information.

From
Debra Conway

Everyone,

I received this clipping from Gary Raymond yesterday. It is a lengthy article on the release of a journal kept by Clay Shaw, written by staff writer David Synder in The Times-Picayune newspaper in New Orleans, LA. I am sending sections of it that should give the reader a good idea of the entire article. Copies can probably be gotten by calling the paper.

The Times-Picayune, July 28, 1996
Front page article, continued to A-2 and A-3:

Heading: The Ordeal Of Clay Shaw
Mainheading: CHARACTER ASSASSINATION

Introduction: In a never-before-released journal, Clay Shaw recounts the horror of his experience as the only man ever prosecuted in the death of John F. Kennedy. History harshly judged New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's prosecution of Shaw, a civic-minded businessman with an impeccable reputation. Shaw's words paint a wrenching and courageous portrait of a life laid to ruin by Garrison's obsessions.

Photo caption: While awaiting trial on charges that he conspired to commit the crime of the century, Clay Shaw maintained a public demeanor of quiet dignity. But in his journal, Shaw describes how he relied upon prayer and alcohol to ease his pain and shock over being wrongfully accused.

Body text beginning: A month after being charged with masterminding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, a confused and devastated Clay Shaw saw a once bright expanses of his life suddenly confined to a narrow, dark corridor.

"There are only three alternatives," he wrote, "kill yourself; you can go crazy and thereby blot the matter out; or, you can endure."

(snip--the following are excerpts)

The friend, who has the journal and some of Shaw's personal papers, asked that his name not be published for fear of being harassed by the tabloid media and conspiracy theorists. Entries in the journal are typed, but a handwriting expert hired by The Times-Picayune determined that handwritten notes relating to the diary and other documents supporting its authenticity are undoubtedly Shaw's.

People who knew Shaw or are familiar with his case say the entries correspond with the historical record, and Shaw makes repeated references in the handwritten notes to working on the journal.

Shaw's public torture would begin Christmas Eve 1966, when he was first questioned by Garrison and his assistants. It would drag on well beyond March 1, 1969, when a jury took only an hour to reject the elements of the district attorney's Swiss cheese case based on

a collection of bizarre witnesses.

Shaw began dictating his journal in March 1967, after he was arrested and formerly charged with conspiring to kill Kennedy, who had been gunned down four years earlier in Dallas.

Throughout the investigation, beginning with his arrest March 1, 1967, Shaw used a dictaphone to record his thoughts and activities. A typist then converted the tapes to notes. Shaw scrawled his own additions on the bottom of the day's notes and, later, used them to keep the journal that filled more than 100 legal-size pages before he gave up the formal diary March 31. He continued to record his thoughts and activities in note form through October.

The journal indicates that Shaw was as puzzled as everyone else about why he had been singled out by Garrison, why he was linked to the likes of Lee Harvey Oswald and David Ferrie, and how he could ever be connected to a CIA-spawned plot to assassinate the president.

"I don't know that anyone, however sympathetic, however great their empathy, can imagine the storm that raged inside me during this half hour of waiting for Sal," he wrote. "I was going to be charged with the greatest crime of the century, of which I was completely innocent, though, at this time, I felt surely that this was some mistake which could still be cleared up easily enough."

A constant theme in the journal is Shaw's unsuccessful attempts to fathom what drove Garrison. One possibility: Garrison "has really gone around the bend."

END OF EXCERPTS

The rest of the article by Snyder continues to tell a very sympathetic story, as told by the journal and Shaw's friends, of a man run out of his home, seeking refuge with friends, and "losing control of his life, and savings, almost immediately."

It goes on to tell about Shaw turning to prayer and ends with a quote from the journal..."I think that I will endure," Shaw said, "Tommmorrow I take up the burden of the second month in supporting the insupportable, tolerating the intolerable and bearing the unbearable."

Thoughts, anyone?

Debra

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