

Garrison Sees Victory Over Suit by Shaw

District Attorney Jim Garrison today predicted he and his fellow defendants will successfully defend a \$5 million damage suit filed by Clay L. Shaw, in connection with the Kennedy assassination investigation.

"We are going to win this game before it is over and there will be no doubt in anybody's mind about that," Garrison said.

Shaw filed suit in Federal District Court yesterday, naming as defendants Garrison, Joseph M. Rault, Jr., Cecil M. Shilstone and Willard E. Robertson, members of the "Truth and Consequences" organization which financially supported the DA's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

SHAW WAS ACQUITTED of conspiring to kill Kennedy exactly one year ago tomorrow.

"Every district attorney who does his duty has to be expected to be sued by defendants from time to time," Garrison said.

These suits are usually filed by the defense attorneys to attempt to embarrass the DA's image.

To use a football analogy, what is important is not the score at the quarter and not the half but at the end of the game.

GARRISON SAID HIS custom is not to comment on facts concerning defendants who have pending cases. Shaw still faces perjury charges arising from the conspiracy trial.

"This is a matter to be tried in court and not in the

newspapers nor in frivolous suits," he said.

The DA defended his associates in the case. He said:

"With regard to the distinguished citizens of New Orleans who have been sued along with me, I deeply regret the temporary inconvenience caused to these fine men.

"The day will come, however, when it will be recognized that these men have made an historic contribution to justice, a contribution which will be remembered not merely in New Orleans but far beyond the boundaries of our city."

OTHER DEFENDANTS include Perry Raymond Russo, Garrison's chief witness at the Shaw trial and Dr. Esmond A. Fatter who allegedly put Russo into a hallucinatory trance in order to elicit testimony implicating Shaw in the assassination.

The suit is also against certain unknown persons who may have joined in the alleged conspiracy to prosecute Shaw and unknown insurers of the defendants. These defendants are identified in the suit only by fictitious names and it is alleged they will be identified upon amendment of the pleading.