

# SHAW \$5 MILLION SUIT AIMED AT DA

## Truth and Consequences Trio Among Accused

Clay L. Shaw, New Orleans businessman who was acquitted on charges that he conspired to assassinate President John F. Kennedy, filed a \$5 million damage suit Friday against District Attorney Jim Garrison and certain of his supporters.

Filed in Federal District Court, the suit also names as defendants Joseph M. Rault Jr., Cecil M. Shilstone and Willard Robertson, members of the "Truth and Consequences" organization which gave financial support to Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

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 that they will be identified upon amendment of the pleadings.

### CHARGES CONSPIRACY

It is charged that Shaw's constitutional rights were violated as a result of a conspiracy between the defendants.

Shaw was acquitted of the assassination conspiracy charge in Criminal District Court on March 1, 1969.

Shaw refused to comment on the suit Friday night but said he has been "restoring some houses and making some lectures" since his acquittal. Asked if he was writing a book about his court confrontation with Garrison, Shaw replied: "No comment."

It is charged in the suit that during the month of November, 1966, or thereabouts,

Garrison, Robertson, Shilstone and Rault entered into a conspiracy to carry into effect a scheme contrived by Garrison.

The purpose of the conspiracy it is alleged, was to conduct an investigation of the Kennedy assassination and to attack the validity of the Warren Report, the integrity of the United States government and all connected with it.

It allegedly was a part of the conspiracy that the investigation would provide a forum for Garrison's attack upon the Warren Report.

Garrison and all members of his staff acted outside the

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Orleans Parish and that he acted outside the scope of his jurisdiction.

Shaw claims that his indictment was returned by the grand jury solely and only on the hallucinatory, drug-induced and hypnotically induced testimony of Russo.

The charges against the plaintiff were "totally lacking in substance and the said Garrison knew them to be so lacking," the suit contends.

The charges against Shaw were not filed for legitimate purposes, it is claimed, "but rather in furtherance of his scheme and that of the defendants herein to conduct an illegal, useless and fraudulent investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, a crime which occurred beyond the scope of Garrison's jurisdiction, for his own personal aggrandizement (or for other reasons unknown to your plaintiff) and in order to obtain a judicial forum for his attacks upon the Warren Commission and other government officials."

Shaw's prosecution was unlawful and undertaken in bad faith for the purpose of harassment and served no legitimate interest, it is charged.

In furtherance of the scheme, the suit claims, Garrison misused and abused the prosecutorial powers vested in him.

During the course of his investigation Garrison allegedly filed criminal charges against various members of the news media, who opposed him or disagreed with him and his theories, knowing full well that the charges had no basis in fact or in law.

These charges allegedly were brought in an effort to inhibit criticism of Garrison or his investigation.

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scope of their jurisdiction and without authorization or color of law, it is contended.

Edward Wegmann, a Shaw attorney, explained to newsmen that "the doctrine of judicial immunity flows down to the prosecuting attorney and you have to be able to establish that he acted without color of law or authority and what he did was outside his jurisdiction."

Wegmann said he made a complaint to the Federal Bureau of Investigation "shortly after the acquittal" that Shaw's civil rights had been violated.

"They did nothing about it," he said.

In November, 1966, the suit charges, Robertson, Shilstone and Rault, as well as other members of "Truth and Consequences" acted in furtherance of the alleged conspiracy by furnishing substantial amounts of money to Garrison for the support of their scheme "to misuse and abuse the powers of public office held by Garrison."

The suit charges that Garrison's jurisdiction is confined to