

# JEK PROBE IS ENDED,

# GARRISON DECLARES

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and ALLAN KATZ

District Attorney Jim Garrison said today his investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been completed.

Garrison, testifying as a defendant in a suit by Clay L. Shaw who seeks to have perjury charges against him thrown out, said of his Kennedy probe, which received worldwide publicity:

"We have reached a conclusion that has made further investigation unnecessary."

HE DID NOT SAY what that conclusion was. "I would like to put it in a public report to the citizens of New Orleans," the DA added.

Garrison's probe began late in 1966 and was first publicly revealed in The

States-Item Feb. 17, 1967. It has been dormant, at least as far as publicity is concerned, since Shaw was acquitted March 4, 1969, on charges that he conspired to kill Kennedy.

Shaw was charged with perjury on the basis of his testimony in the conspiracy trial and the current hearing in federal court is on his plea that the charges be thrown out because his civil rights are being violated. The hearing moved into its second day today before U.S. District Judge Herbert W. Christenberry.

Garrison's epiphany for the probe came while he was being questioned by Shaw attorney William Wegmann about a book he wrote entitled "Heritage of Stone."

THE BOOK IS AN issue in the current proceedings because of Shaw's allegation that the DA has a financial interest in prosecuting him, that is publicizing the book.

Garrison said it took him about two years to write the book and said its subject matter "concerns the trans-

ition of America from a state controlled by its citizens to a state controlled by its warfare machine."

After Garrison admitted that most of the information in the book was gathered in the Kennedy probe, Wegmann asked the DA if the investigation is still in effect.

GARRISON SAID, "It has been completed."

Asked if anything in the book came out of the investigation of Shaw, Garrison said:

"Yes. We accumulated so much information it could not all be put into the book. I would like to put it in a public report to the citizens of New Orleans. There was just no room.

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enough for all the information in the book."

GARRISON SAID he has a royalty interest in the sale of the book and a contract for three other books. He said he has refused offers to publicize the book because it might influence Shaw's perjury trial.

At one point, Wegmann asked the court's permission to introduce a copy of "Heritage of Stone" in evidence and Garrison interjected:

"If you like, I'll be glad to autograph it for you."

ON ANOTHER MATTER, Garrison confirmed that funds were received from John J. McKeithen to help finance the probe. James A. Alcock, former first assistant DA, acknowledged in yesterday's session that two checks for \$5,000 each were received from McKeithen.

In a discussion of his office's handling of the funds used in the probe, Garrison said at one point:

"If our accounting procedures were compared to those of the Bank of New Orleans, we would come in second." While talkative on some points, Gar-

THE STATES-ITEM  
Tuesday, January 26, 1971  
New Orleans, La. 10 Cents

rison was recalcitrant when it came to disclosing details of the Kennedy probe.

**HE CLASHED** with Shaw's attorney several times when pressed for such disclosures. Judge Christenberry refused to force the DA to answer but made it clear he would consider the refusal when making his final decision on whether to permit the state to proceed with the perjury trial.

The first such clash came as follows:

Under questioning by William Wegmann, Garrison was asked:

"What witnesses did you have on March 1, 1967, to base your order to arrest Clay Shaw?"

Garrison objected to answering, saying: "In my considered judgment, I would not be doing my duty to answer the questions for making a policy decision."

**JUDGE CHRISTENBERRY** interjected that the "the question doesn't involve policy." But Garrison insisted that he would be "in violation of my oath of office, so I must refuse to answer."

Wegmann asked the judge to order Garrison to answer but Judge Christenberry said, "... If he refuses to answer, we'll have to assume there was just one witness."

Shaw's attorneys have sought to show that Shaw's arrest was based solely on the story of Perry Raymond Russo, whose tale of an assassination plot meeting was elicited under hypnosis.

**WEGMANN THEN** turned to the crux of the perjury charge, Garrison's claim that Shaw knew accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie, whom Garrison named as a co-conspirator in the Kennedy plot.

Garrison charges Shaw lied under oath when he said in the conspiracy trial he never knew Oswald or Ferrie. Shaw's attorneys contend the perjury charge is invalid because the jury which acquitted Shaw in effect ruled on the validity of his testimony.

Wegmann asked Garrison if the al-

leged association of Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie was an "essential element of your original case," Garrison replied:

"YES, IT IS my recollection at the time of the prosecution that either one of those two men would have been essential witnesses."

Questioned further, he said the association was "part of the theory of the state's case."

Garrison also testified there "was never any attempt to involve Shaw" in events in Dealey Plaza in Dallas where the assassination occurred.

The DA said Charles Speidel, a witness who testified about an alleged assassination plot in the conspiracy trial, "was not a very good witness." He said he did not want to put him on the stand but did so at the urging of chief prosecutor James L. Alcock.

**ASKED IF HE** believed Russo's story, Garrison said:

"I believed it then and I believe it now."

Garrison became visibly annoyed when asked about another witness, Vernon Bundy, who testified in the conspiracy trial he saw Shaw and Oswald together. He again said he would be violating his oath of office to answer.

Judge Christenberry again refused to force Garrison to answer, saying that Alcock testified on that point yesterday and the prior testimony would be accepted as accurate if the DA refused to talk. Garrison did not reply.

**THE JUDGE AND** Wegmann noted that Alcock's testimony indicated Bundy's information against Shaw became available only after Shaw was arrested.

Garrison declined to answer any further questions about Bundy, charging Wegmann was "on a fishing expedition."

The judge again stressed that when Garrison refuses to answer, he will base his decision in the case on testimony from other witnesses.

**AT ONE POINT**, during questions about his office's conduct of the conspiracy trial, Garrison hinted his firm

at Shaw and said: "I would infinitely rather see Clay Shaw acquitted than see him convicted and have a trial about which there were any questions."

In yesterday's session, Judge Christenberry raised the question of whether Shaw's case was handled differently from that of other defendants.

**CHRISTENBERRY**, a 23-year veteran of the federal bench, let it be known yesterday he thinks at least one part of the case didn't seem to be handled right.

"... I saw on television when Shaw was in the courtroom corridor the day he was arrested on a charge of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy surrounded by police and district attorneys," Christenberry said yesterday on one of the several occasions he interrupted testimony in the hearing to make comments.

"It seemed confused. As far as that goes, it didn't seem to be handled like any other trial," the judge added. Christenberry asked several questions during the hearing about the assassination trial. At one point he asked how long the jury was out.

"Fifty-five minutes," answered one of the attorneys. Christenberry shook his head in bewilderment, saying, "Fifty-five minutes after a 40-day trial."

He added with a smile that this hearing isn't going to last as long as the trial lasted.



**DA ARRIVES** District Attorney **JIM GARRISON**, right, is accompanied by investigator **STEVE BORDEON** as he arrives at federal court to testify in the hearing to bar him from prosecuting Clay L. Shaw on perjury charges.