

\$30,000 or \$100,000 ?

SHAW PROBE FUNDS AIRED

A New Orleans banker testified in federal court today that Truth and Consequences Inc. raised \$30,000 for District Attorney Jim Garrison to investigate Clay L. Shaw, but defense attorneys indicated the figure may be closer to \$100,000.

Willard E. Robertson, president of Truth and Consequences, told Judge Herbert W. Christenberry that he did not know the exact amount of money raised for the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy because Garrison never has made an accounting of expenditures.

THE TESTIMONY on Truth and Consequences contributions came in the opening session of a hearing on Shaw's motion for a permanent injunction to bar Garrison from prosecuting Shaw for perjury.

Garrison contends that Shaw lied when he told the jury that acquitted Lee Oswald for the murder of Kennedy that he did not know either Lee Harvey Oswald or David Ferrie, who were named by Garrison as co-conspirators.

Garrison earlier today lost a bid to have the perjury hearing stopped. The district attorney said he had seen Shaw with Oswald or Ferrie at one time or another.

IN DECIDING to reject the district attorney's motion, Judge Christenberry said the case might prove to be "unusual and extraordinary and should be heard."

The first witness called was Louis Carnat of the Bank of New Orleans, who produced promissory notes signed by Robertson, president of Truth and Consequences.

One note for \$30,000 was dated Nov. 1, 1967, and the second, for \$5,000, was dated Jan. 1, 1968.

Carnat also revealed the existence of a "Jim Garrison Fund" but he said he did not have all the records on hand and could not give details about it.

ROBERTSON WAS listed on Truth and Consequences documents along with Joseph M. Rault Jr. and Cecil M. Shilstone. Garrison was listed as secretary of the organization, Carnat said.

Robertson took the stand as the second witness and told of money-raising efforts.

Asked by a defense attorney if he knew the amount of money raised by Truth and Consequences or whether the

figure was \$30,000, Robertson said he did not know because he has never seen an accounting of the funds.

Robertson did say Garrison owes him \$20,000 and an additional \$5,000 to the Bank of New Orleans.

Truth and Consequences was organized after Garrison was criticized for

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using public funds to finance his assassination investigation.

Shaw presently is suing the group for \$5 million and is attempting to obtain records of that organization.

GARRISON WAS not present for the start of today's hearing. An associate said he was on call and could appear within one hour. The associate said Garrison has been ordered by his doctors to remain in bed and to get up for no more than two hours at a time.

Others called to testify in the hearing are Assistant District Attorneys John Volz and Andrew Sciambra, Criminal District Court Judges James Alcock and Malcolm V. O'Hara, Criminal District Court Clerk Dan Haggerty and Perry Raymond Russo, a witness

in the Shaw trial.

Shaw, dressed in a blue suit with white pin stripes, arrived for the hearing a half-hour early.

Assistant District Attorney William Alford opened arguments on the district attorney's motion for dismissal, saying the court should not act merely on a claim of bad faith by the defense.

He said if that were allowed, the district attorney would have to go into federal court every time a defendant is not pleased with the way a case went.

ALFORD SAID the defense contention of bad faith is totally without base and groundless.

Defense attorney Edward Wegmann countered that Garrison has a financial interest in continuing with the trial to maintain the sales of his book, "A Heritage of Stone."

"With certainty Garrison has a financial interest in the outcome of this case, because he wants to keep his name before the public to help book sales," Wegmann said.

ALFORD ARGUED that the defense move is simply an "act of trickery" and Judge Christenberry said it is unfortunate members of the bar should accuse each other of acts of trickery.

Alford tried to bring in statements by the defense about Garrison's position but the judge refused to hear the matter. At one point he threatened to hold Alford in contempt of court if he did not halt that line of argument.



Defendant, witnesses

Arriving for federal court hearing on a request to block the perjury trial of Clay L. Shaw are, from left, SHAW, CECIL M. SHILSTONE and WILLARD E. ROBERTSON. (States-Item photos.)

Garrison's motion for dismissal of the temporary injunction stated that he could produce ten witnesses who could testify that Shaw and Ferrie knew each other.

Garrison listed the ten and said they would testify as follows:

Betty Rubio, a clerk at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport, who he said will testify she saw Ferrie and Shaw there on April 1, 1964.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Tadin, who testified during the trial that Ferrie and Shaw were together at New Orleans International Airport.

Herbert Wagner, gas station attendant, who Garrison said will testify he saw Shaw and Ferrie together at a service station owned by Ferrie.

Jim Louviere, who worked at Ferrie's station and said he saw Shaw and Ferrie there and at Ferrie's home.

Andrew Dunn, of Clinton, who testified at the trial that he saw Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald together in Clinton in 1963.

John Manchester, Clinton town marshal, who told of seeing Shaw and another man in a big black car there.

Harry Earl Palmer, registrar of voters in Clinton, who will also say he saw them in Clinton.

Correy Collins, who will say he saw the three in Clinton together in 1963.

James Laurent, a one-time friend of Ferrie's, who is prepared to say he saw Ferrie and Shaw together at the service station.

The district attorney said he also could produce other witnesses who could testify about the friendship of the three men.

He also attacked the contention that the first jury, in acquitting Shaw, also found him innocent of perjury. Garrison said he is willing to have the jury called in and polled on that point.

CARMAT said he does not have all the records pertaining to Truth and Consequences or the Jim Garrison Fund because they are in storage on microfilm. He said he expects to have a complete rundown on the finances of the two funds in a day or so.

The second witness called was Robertson.

Wearing a dark blue suit, he said he is an automobile importer.

Robertson said he holds no public office but noted Gov. John J. McKeithen has appointed him to the Mississippi River Bridge Authority and the Louisiana Tourist Commission and that he currently serves on both boards.

The questioning by Edward Wegmann proceeded:

Q—Are you a close personal friend of Jim Garrison?

A—Yes, I am.

Q—How many years have you been a close personal friend?

A—Ten or 12 years.

First Assistant DA Volz objected that Wegmann's questions were irrelevant to the perjury charges against Shaw. After he had been overruled twice, Volz entered a general objection to all of Wegmann's questions of Robertson. The questioning proceeded.

Q—How often do you see Jim Garrison?

A—Not very often.

Q—When was the last time?

A—In the hospital three or four months ago.

Q—How often did you see Jim Garrison from September, 1966, to March 1, 1969?

A—About a dozen times.

Q—Are you a political supporter of Mr. Garrison?

A—Yes, I am.

Q—Have you contributed to his campaigns for district attorney?

A—Yes, I have.

Q—Are you one of the organizers of Truth and Consequences of New Orleans Inc.?

A—Yes, I was.

Q—Is it a fact that you solicited friends, associates and customers to raise funds for Truth and Consequences?

Over another objection by Volz Robertson was instructed to answer the question.

A—Yes, I did.

Q—How much did you personally give to Truth and Consequences?

A—I gave checks of \$100 and \$100 again—then I gave a check for \$10,000 and another check for \$2,500.

Q—Were there any conditions attached to your donations?

A—That it would be returned to me when enough money was available.

Q—For what purpose did you make these donations?

A—For the purpose of investigating the assassination of President Kennedy.

Q—For the purpose of investigating the assassination or for the purpose of prosecuting Clay Shaw?

A—For the purpose of investigating the assassination.

Judge Christenberry then interposed, asking, "Were you a personal friend of President Kennedy's?"

A—I spent an hour and 25 minutes in his office a month before his death.

Wegmann then proceeded to establish that before moving to New Orleans some 15 years ago, Robertson lived in New Haven, Conn. He established that Robertson had never given

money to any other district attorney, had never set up private funds for the prosecution of criminals such as rapists or armed robbers, nor had known any district attorney other than Garrison.

It was established that the \$25,000 promissory note signed by Robertson now has been reduced to \$21,500. Wegmann resumed his questioning.

Q—Did you pay the bank back \$3,500?

A—I don't recall, sir.

Q—What was done with the proceeds of the note?

A—I assume Mr. Garrison used it.

Q—Did Mr. Garrison receive the full \$25,000?

A—No. Ten thousand dollars was returned to a company that I own and \$2,500 was returned to me.

Q—What happened to the balance?

A—It went to Mr. Garrison, which I assume he spent.

Q—Don't you know when that \$12,500 was spent or how?

A—No, sir.

Robertson added he currently is paying interest on the \$21,500 note that is held by the Bank of New Orleans.

Q—Did Garrison agree to pay for the note from the proceeds of his book, "Heritage of Stone?"

A—No, he did not.

Q—Did he agree to pay the note off from his personal funds?

A—Yes, he did.

Q—Has he done so?

A—No, he has not.

Wegmann then showed Robertson the \$5,000 promissory note.

Q—Who ultimately received the proceeds of this note?

A—Jim Garrison.

Q—For what purpose?

A—To further the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Q—Have you received an accounting of Truth and Consequences funds?

A—No.

Q—Have you received any report, any vouchers showing the use of the money given to Mr. Garrison?

A—No.

Q—Have you ever asked for it?

A—No.

At this point Christenberry asked, "Why not?"

A—He sent investigators all over the country. I assume that is where the money went, sir.

Christenberry: Do you care how he spent the money?

A—Yes, sir, I care how he spends my money.

Wegmann resumed the questioning.

Q—Did other members of Truth and Consequences get an accounting?

A—I do not know.

Q—Isn't it true that most of the funds went to Garrison after March 1, 1967—the date after Clay Shaw was arrested?

A—I believe that is correct, sir.

Judge Christenberry: You contributed this money after the arrest? Was the investigation made after the arrest?

A—Clay Shaw was judged innocent by a jury. That is good enough for me, sir.

Wegmann: These funds would only have been used for the prosecution of Clay Shaw, is that correct?

A—I do not know how those funds were spent.

Q—Was Jim Garrison prosecuting anyone else other than Clay Shaw?

A—No sir, not to my knowledge.

Wegmann then produced a check for \$4,933 signed by Robertson. He asked for what purpose the check had been drawn.

Robertson replied the check had been drawn to cover an overdraft in the Jim Garrison Fund.

Wegmann then produced a check for \$2,000, dated Dec. 18, 1967, made payable to Jim Garrison.

Q—Why was this money paid directly to Garrison?

A—Because he needed the funds.

Robertson explained he often signed checks at the request of either Garrison or the DA's staff. He said he could not recall which checks were requested by Garrison and which by his staff.

Judge Christenberry then asked: "Do you mean his staff would call up and get money?"

A—That is correct, sir.

Wegmann produced a check for \$2,500 made payable to Jim Garrison which Robertson said he was not aware had been drawn against the account, then produced checks to Louis Ivon in the amount of \$1,300, \$1,000, \$1,200, \$2,700, \$1,000, \$150 and \$5,000, all drawn in the winter of 1967.

Robertson said the checks were made to Ivon to cover the expenses of the investigation. He said he thought Ivon was a bookkeeper on Garrison's staff. It was pointed out that Ivon is a police officer assigned to the DA.

Wegmann took up the questioning.

Q—Is Jim Garrison still using that Truth and Consequences money?

A—Perhaps so.

Q—Is Garrison using that money to press perjury charges against Shaw?

A—Perhaps so.

Q—One of the witnesses against Clay Shaw was Roger Craig of Dallas. Did you employ Craig at one of your companies?

A—For a brief time.

Q—Did Jim Garrison ask you to put him to work?

A—I don't believe so.

Robertson agreed that Craig had worked for him before he testified against Shaw and returned to Dallas after his testimony.

Judge Christenberry asked Robertson if he had anything to do with getting Craig to testify.

Robertson emphatically replied, "No, sir."

Robertson said he arranged a meeting between Garrison and Gordon Novel in his offices at the 225 Baronne Bldg. late one evening after Novel called him and said he wasn't "safe on the streets."

Robertson said he introduced Novel to Garrison but did not sit in on the meeting.

ROBERTSON SAID that after Novel went to Cincinnati he purchased \$5,000 to \$6,000 of merchandise from him.

Asked how much Garrison owed him, Robertson said Garrison owes him \$25,000 in promissory notes another \$5,000 for the Bank of New Orleans.

WEGMANN ASKED Robertson if he knew the total amount of money contributed by Truth and Consequences to Garrison. "Isn't that total \$99,488?"

Robertson answered: "I have never seen an accounting of the funds."

He said he did know Clay Shaw before Shaw was arrested on the conspiracy count, but did not know he was a suspect in the case when Truth and Consequences was formed.

Robertson said he personally contributed a small amount of money to T-C before Shaw was indicted.

He said he did not counsel Garrison on the investigation and has taken no part of any alleged harassment of Shaw.

WEGMANN ASKED Robertson why he contributed to T-C. Robertson became emotional and related an incident in which he had met with President Kennedy for an hour and 25 minutes, just two weeks before the assassination.

He said the meeting had "inspired me a great deal" and that he had been impressed by Kennedy.

"I contributed because I was deeply concerned at how anyone could accept the findings of the Warren Commission or the fact that records in the case have been filed away for 75 years, when no person living today will see them."