



—United Press International

Clay Shaw leaves the New Orleans courthouse.

## Shaw Is Acquitted Of JFK Death Plot

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A jury's unanimous verdict of not guilty today cleared Clay L. Shaw, 55, of a charge of conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Read to a packed, heavily guarded Criminal District Court at 1:02 a.m., the verdict triggered a moment of bedlam. There was an earsplitting concerted shriek from the women spectators.

The 12-man jury rejected both the state case and Dist. Atty.

Jim Garrison's plea that a conviction would strike a blow at "excessive government power."

"Garrison has a right to his opinion about the government and the Warren Commission," said juror David I. Powe shortly after court adjourned. "But I just don't feel his opinion is enough to convict a man."

Shaw, a 6-foot-4 retired New Orleans businessman with tanned and craggy features, stood in a protective circle of deputies as the verdict was read.

"Do you wish the jury polled?" asked Judge Edward A. Haggerty.

Asst. Dist. Atty. James L. Al-

cock, who headed Garrison's team of prosecutors, slumped low in his chair. He shook his head wearily, side to side.

Powe, a juror who grew a goatee while sequestered during the 34-day trial, said the verdict was unanimous and was reached on the first ballot.

Deliberation took about 50 minutes. Under Louisiana law, it took at least a 9-3 vote for a decision. Shaw was cleared two years to the day from the date he was arrested.

The state charged Shaw with conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and others to murder Ken-

See SHAW, Page A-3

## SHAW

# Defendant Cleared Of Plotting Killing

Continued From Page A-1  
nedy, who was slain in Dallas  
Nov. 22, 1963. The Warren Com-  
mission named Oswald as the  
assassin.

Much of the prosecution case  
concentrated on attacking the  
commission's conclusion that  
Oswald, a former New Orleans  
resident, was alone and unaided  
in the assassination.

"We were trying Shaw, not the  
Warren Commission," said  
Powe. "But I felt two or three  
times that I didn't know who we  
were trying — the FBI, the federal  
government, the Secret  
Service..."

### Garrison Absent

Garrison, up for re-election in  
six months, was not in the court-  
room when the verdict was read.  
He appeared rarely during the  
trial, leaving the case to four  
assistants.

In final arguments, he left the  
oratory on legal detail and testi-  
mony to the assistants — but  
made an emotional appeal in the  
final minutes, attacking the  
Warren Commission.

"The government handling of  
the investigation of the assassi-  
nation of President Kennedy was  
a fraud," he said, "probably the  
greatest fraud perpetrated in  
the history of mankind."

The Warren Commission, he  
said, was a group of "men of  
high position and prestige sitting  
on a board and telling you what  
happened but withholding the  
evidence..."

"You can cause justice to hap-  
pen in this case for the first time  
in five years," he concluded,  
"and if you do that, nothing you  
have ever done will have been  
more important."

### Shaw Called a "Patsy"

In summing up, the state said  
it had proved — with photo-  
graphs, arithmetic and witness-  
es — that Kennedy came under  
fire from three guns, not just  
one, as the Warren Commission  
said.

Defense lawyer F. Irvin Dy-  
mond said Shaw was "a patsy  
picked ... to provide a forum

for an attack on the Warren  
Commission."

Nothing had been proven, he  
said, since the state's entire  
case rested on the testimony of  
Perry Raymond Russo; and he  
said the defense had shown  
"Perry Raymond Russon is a  
liar."

The state put up a parade of  
unfit witnesses, Dymond added.  
He named Russo, a New Orleans  
book salesman, and Charles I.  
Spiesel of New York, a small,  
balding accountant.

Russo said he attended a  
party in September 1963 and  
overheard Shaw, Oswald and  
David W. Ferrie, a one-time air-  
line pilot, plotting.

### Testimony Attacked

Spiesel, described by Dymond  
as "the most obvious paranoid  
case I've ever seen in my life,"  
said he met Ferrie at a bar  
during a visit here in 1963 and  
Ferrie took him to a party, in-  
troducing the host as Clay Shaw.

"What kind of a good faith  
prosecution, what kind of a legiti-  
mate prosecution would get up  
here and try to con you gentle-  
men into accepting the testi-  
mony of a man like that?" Dymond  
said.

Dymond examined the state's  
case step by step, applying what  
he called plain logic. "It just  
doesn't add up," he said.

After the verdict was read,  
confusion and noise erupted  
from the spectators and it took a  
few moments to restore order.

Some members of the crowd  
screamed, "No! No!"

Haggerty held the court in  
session until the jurors got out.  
Shaw stood, smiling broadly and  
shook each juror's hand as they  
filed past.

Shaw was hustled out the back  
door of the courtroom and left in  
a car, with a line of deputies  
pushing newsmen and specta-  
tors away from the garage exit.  
Garrison had left earlier.

"It certainly has been an in-  
teresting case, hasn't it," he  
said. "No matter how this thing  
ends, I will not hold a news con-  
ference. I'm tired of being  
called flamboyant. Everybody  
knows I am not flamboyant."