

2 Witnesses Testify Shaw Knew Ferrie

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NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 27—Clay L. Shaw took the witness stand in his own defense today and denied he conspired to assassinate President John F. Kennedy or that he even knew his alleged co-conspirators David Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald.

But three hours later, two surprise rebuttal witnesses rocked the courtroom with testimony that they saw Shaw and Ferrie together in 1964. The new witnesses, Nicholas Tadin and his wife Matilda, volunteered their stories only this morning.

Tadin said he had not wanted "to get involved" but changed his mind while watching TV reports because he knew Shaw and Ferrie were acquainted.

The testimony of Tadin and his wife was the State's response to the testimony of Shaw, who had categorically denied every element of the murder conspiracy charge against him including ever having known Ferrie.

It appeared that it would soon be known what effect the testimony had on the jury as Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. announced that some time on Friday he would submit to the all-male panel the case that began 38 days ago.

See SHAW, A5, Col. 1

Shaw Denies Plot to Murder JFK

SHAW, From A1

Shaw is accused of conspiring in this city with Oswald and Ferrie, both now dead, to assassinate the President. The prosecution is part of District Attorney Jim Garrison's attempt to discredit the Warren Commission in particular and the Federal Government in general for allegedly trying to cover up a murder plot.

Elements of Decision

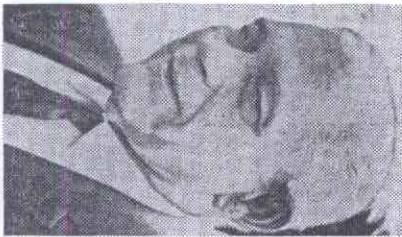
If the jury believes the new witnesses, it will have to reject Shaw's denial that he ever knew Ferrie, the broken-down airline pilot who was Garrison's prime investigation target before his death two years ago.

To find Shaw guilty—a verdict that would strike a heavy blow at the prestige of the Warren report worldwide—the jury must also believe that Ferrie reached murder and getaway agreements at a party here in mid-September 1963, two months before the tragedy in Dallas.

Tadin, balding and perhaps in his late 40s, preceded his wife to the witness stand. He identified himself as the business manager of a local musicians union and the father of two deaf sons, one of whom took flying lessons with Ferrie at the city's Lakefront airport 4½ years ago.

Spellbinding Influence

Like a witness who placed Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald together at the 1963 party, Tadin was unable to give a precise date beyond "sometime be-



Associated Press

CLAY SHAW

... takes the stand

between June and August" in 1964 as when he saw Shaw and Ferrie together.

Tadin and his wife had come out to be with their 16-year-old son during a flying lesson with Ferrie, a known homosexual with a spellbinding influence on young boys that Tadin hinted was of concern to him. He said he saw Shaw leave an airport hangar about three feet ahead of Ferrie. "I said to myself, 'Aw, Christ,'" said Tadin in a manner strongly suggestive of the unspoken but widely acknowledged fact that Shaw is a homosexual.

After Shaw turned and left for his car, said Tadin, Ferrie said the man was "a friend of mine, Mr. Clay Shaw. He's the manager of the International Trade Mart."

Cross-examined by Defense Attorney F. Irvin Dymond, Tadin said he couldn't recall how Shaw was dressed that day.

Asked if Shaw had a hat—a question that may have helped discredit previous witnesses who said he wore one—Tadin replied he remembered Shaw was hatless because his wife remarked about Shaw's "beautiful hair," a disfigured gray.

"When did you first get in touch with the District Attorney's office?" Dymond asked. "This morning," the witness replied.

Asked why he had not come forward two years ago when the question first arose whether Shaw and Ferrie had been acquainted, Tadin said, "The same like other people in this case, I didn't want to get involved."

Decided to Come Forward

He decided last night while watching reports of the day's trial developments on TV, to come forward.

"I say, this is not true," Tadin said he told himself.

Mrs. Tadin backed up her husband about the 1964 incident. While equally uncertain about the clothing worn by Shaw, she was able to say that the event occurred in "late August."

To some observers, the guilt or innocence of Shaw has seemed of secondary importance to Garrison, the most important thing being his evidence against the Warren Commission which the trial

under Louisiana conspiracy law makes admissible.

Shaw, 55, and retired from an advertising and trade promotion career, testified just before the defense rested its case this afternoon. He calmly and tersely denied any conspiracy.

"Have you ever, even jokingly or casually, talked about killing the President of the United States?" Dymond asked his client.

"Certainly not," Shaw answered.

"Did you conspire with David Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald (O murder John F. Kennedy, the President of the United States?" Dymond asked.

"No, I did not," Shaw said. "Did you ever at any time want President Kennedy to die?" asked Dymond.

"Certainly not," said Shaw, adding that he had voted for Mr. Kennedy and supported him.

He denied using the name "Clay Bertrand," which Garrison claims was his alias. Had he ever used an alias? Only once, when he wrote a play under the pen name, Allen White, "a name derived from the maiden names of my grandmothers."

During an hour's cross-examination, Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock was so gentle with the defendant that the courthouse buzzed with reports that the prosecutors had become discouraged at the way the case had been going.

However, any impression that the prosecution was about to take an acquittal lying down was dispelled when Mr. and Mrs. Tadin took the stand.