

Shaw Eyes Jury During Testimony

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By EDWARD J. LEPOMA

Clay Shaw had a two-hour, one-way conversation with his jury today.

Facing directly at the 12 men who will decide his fate, the eyes of the man accused of plotting to kill President Kennedy almost never left the two rows of jurors in answering a barrage of questions from both his lawyers and the prosecution.

AND THROUGHOUT THE ORDEAL, the central figure in District Attorney Jim Garrison's probe of the assassination maintained the image of calm and dignity he first produced when he stepped into the courtroom at the beginning of the trial.

Today, six weeks later, the man everyone in the courtroom was waiting to hear finally took the witness stand and the courtroom became unusually quiet.

Dressed in the same kind of conservative business suit, white shirt and tie that has characterized his appearance from the start, Shaw answered questions deliberately, but never looking at the lawyers.

SOMETIMES HE PAUSED, refreshing his memory for dates, and at one point he asked for a glass of water.

His determination to address his remarks to the jury

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posed a bit of a problem in that his head was turned slightly from the microphone and not always, at first, could his answers be heard clearly by newsmen and spectators.

It forced the court reporter at one point to ask Shaw to lean closer to the microphone.

Sometimes while he was thinking, he placed the ear piece of his black rim glasses to his mouth and he occasionally rested his chin on his fist.

THE JURORS, PROBABLY because Shaw's eyes were upon them, looked up and down frequently, but stayed intent throughout. They seemed especially attentive when Shaw testified about his trips to Clinton to the ranch of Lloyd J. Cobb, president of the International Trade Mart, for which Shaw had been managing director, and his ownership of buildings at 906-B Esplanade, a building visited by the jurors early in the trial.

It was there that one witness, Charles I. Speisel, thought he had attended a party at Shaw's and his testimony prompted trial Judge Edward A. Haggerty to let the jury see in person if Speisel could pick it out on the spot.

And it was in Clinton that several witnesses had testified they saw Shaw with Lee Harvey Oswald, the man the Warren Commission identified as the lone assassin of President Kennedy.

BUT THE SHAW TESTIMONY produced no fireworks, no startling developments.

And where was Garrison, the man who accused Shaw of conspiracy, while Shaw was on the witness stand?

He wasn't in the courtroom.