
Shaw Is Calm, Deliberate as He Denies All Charges

His Eyes Are Riveted on
12-Man Jury

By PAUL ATKINSON
"Call the defendant, Clay L.
Shaw."

That was how Chief Defense Counsel F. Irvin Dymond opened the curtain on sheer courtroom drama Thursday morning as he asked Shaw, accused of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy, to step to the witness stand in his own behalf. Dymond had promised that the towering, 55-year-old Shaw would take the stand and he didn't back down.

For over two hours, Shaw was bombarded with questions by Dymond and James L. Alcock.

Through it all, Shaw was calm and deliberate in his answers.

A constant chain-smoker during most of the six weeks of trial testimony, Shaw did not have a cigarette while he underwent 65 minutes of cross-examination by Alcock. Once he called for some water, though.

Mostly, Shaw had his eyes riveted on the 12-man jury that will decide his fate — probably beginning Friday afternoon.

Dymond quickly led Shaw through a series of questions and most required no more than one word—no—to answer. Shaw denied everything that District Attorney Jim Garrison had charged in his opening statement. The direct questioning took only 30 minutes.

There was a brief recess and Judge Edward A. Haggerty surprised the spectators by calling the court back into session quicker than usual. This caused a delay before Alcock could get into his cross-examination.

As Judge Haggerty suggested a delay for the people to return, a smile played across Shaw's lips. He rested momentarily, putting his hand on his chin.

There was one other moment of humor that caught Shaw's fancy. He was telling, under cross-examination, about Gordon Novel. Shaw said that Novel usually came by his office with ideas that found the International Trade Mart putting up the money. This struck him as amusing and he smiled a bit.

Shaw punctuated his answers to Alcock with "sirs."

Shaw alternately put his glasses on and off. Often while waiting for Alcock to fire another question at him, Shaw would hold his glasses in his hand and lean over as if in contemplation.

The jury seemed torn between two centers of attention—Shaw and Alcock. At times, it seemed as if the jury members were following a tennis match, as first Alcock lobbed a question and Shaw retrieved it. The jurors' eyes followed them closely.

After Alcock had told Shaw, "no further questions," and had surrendered him, Shaw was seen to look toward the back of the courtroom at some one and break out in a wide smile.