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Film Shocks Shaw Trial

By EDWARD J. LEPOMA

If every picture is worth a thousand words, then the jury trying Clay Shaw has nearly 100,000 other words to digest in addition to the testimony.

Just what effect these pictures have had on the jurors has been a subject of considerable talk among courtroom kibitzers during the course of the trial.

Since the testimony began more than three weeks ago, the district attorney's of-

ice has introduced as evidence almost 100 pictures.

THE PRINCIPAL—and most shocking—one, of course, has been the eight-millimeter, color film of the actual assassination of President John F. Kennedy taken by Dallas dress manufacturer Abraham Zapruder.

The film itself was shown over and

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over to the jury—a total of nine times—over the vigorous objections of chief defense counsel F. Irvin Dymond. Its effect on courtroom spectators was the same each time it was shown—gasps and a deadly lull after the end of the grisly film.

Individual frames from the film, blown up many times the original size, have been introduced and examined by the jurors

JUST BEFORE the testimony ended today, each juror was handed a portion of a photograph enlarged to the extreme.

According to the witness, Peter Schuster, a photographer and investigator for the Orleans Parish Coroner's Office, he claimed it showed a man holding something, but he testified he could not say whether the man was holding a gun.

Nevertheless, each juror received a copy

of the picture and the effect was instantaneous. For five minutes their eyes were glued on the picture and they began talking to each other.

IT PROMPTED trial Judge Edward A. Haggerty to instruct them not to discuss the picture in the courtroom. He said they could talk about it later.

But it served as a good illustration to these courtroom buffs that pictures, indeed, may be having much of an effect on the men who will decide Clay Shaw's fate.

The defense, too, has had its share of pictures submitted as evidence, principally sketches from the Kennedy autopsy that are part of the Warren Commission report.

Only 12 men can say accurately what effect these pictures will have on the final verdict—the 12 jurors trying Clay L. Shaw.