

Shaw Courtroom Takes on Appearance of Art Gallery

Jury Gets Final Look at Pictures, Exhibits

By PAUL ATKINSON

The Clay L. Shaw trial courtroom late Friday afternoon took on the appearance of an art gallery.

One by one, assistant district attorney Alvin V. Oser hung up exhibits and pictures in his portion of the state's summation of its case against Shaw, accused by District Attorney Jim Garrison with conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Oser used every nook and corner of the small working area to hang his exhibits. He put a three feet by four feet blowup of a page from the autopsy report up on the witness stand, and he tacked up a blowup of a bullet on the judge's bench.

Color photographs of the famed Zapruder film were attached to a blowup of an aerial photograph of the Dealey Plaza, making it a clutter of pictures. In his presentation, Oser also used a blackboard to scribble with his left hand key points and a surveyor's map of the Dallas, Tex., assassination area. When the state's summation was over and Judge Edward A. Haggerty was recessing for dinner, he was forced to call in extra deputies to store the exhibits in his chambers.

RIDICULE HEAPED

During his 60-minute-plus detailing of the state's contention that there was a triangulation of fire in Dealey Plaza, Oser often heaped ridicule on contrib-

utors to the Warren Commission Report. At least three times, in reference to Dr. Pierre A. Finck, one of three co-authors of the Kennedy autopsy report, Oser said, "Dr. Finck, quote, pathologist enquote."

Telling of the re-creation of the assassination by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Oser sarcastically labeled it, "The monumental flop in investigation re-creation in the history of the world."

"The FBI got the evidence up to Washington but couldn't get it back to Dallas," said Oser with a half-smile—referring to testimony that the President's limousine was not used in the recreation of the scene.

At times, Oser leaned right in front of the jury box, demonstrating a point with his coat pulled up over his neck. Where Oser had been talking loudly as he rambled around the confined area, he suddenly talked very softly.

Oser, of course, did not miss a chance to show portions of the Zapruder film. About 5:40 p.m., he had the screen set up for the benefit of the jury to see frames 312 through 318 for about the ninth time. Unlike in previous showings of the film or slides, there was no mass exodus of people from one side of the courtroom to another. Instead, there was quiet in the twilight that peeked through the shades of the courtroom.

SECOND HALF

The Oser oration was the second half of the state's two-pronged case. Opening up for the state was chief prosecutor

James L. Alcock, who dwelled on the New Orleans portion of the plot.

Alcock's presentation was devoid of the props that marked Oser's production. But Alcock walked as far and at times his voice seemed to crack, and some newsmen swore they saw tears in his eyes.

Where little—if any—mention was made of the defendant by Oser, Alcock talked of him frequently. "This has proved to be a liar again and again and unworthy of your belief," Alcock said many times. At times, he put dramatic emphasis on it by pointing at the defendant, Shaw.

DA Garrison made only one courtroom appearance during the state's summation, that coming when Oser was nearly finished with his Dealey Plaza show at 5:40 p. m. He slipped into the courtroom quietly, but his wife had been in for all of the proceedings.

Just before Oser's final presentation, Mrs. Garrison and Shaw passed each other in the crowded aisle, but neither looked at the other.

Shaw, through the long presentations, sat impassively and puffed away on a cigarette. Even when the Zapruder film was shown, he chose to sit down at his table, though his counsel, F. Irvin Dymond and William and Edward Wegmann, got up for better views of it. Usually, Shaw has accompanied the counsel to see the film.

JURY IMPATIENT

It was evident as the court recessed late in the afternoon that the jury was becoming impatient after the 39th day of the trial. Judge Haggerty, who had kept busy while Oser made his presentation by checking what appeared to be his final charge to the jury, seemed to sense the jury's impatience.

As the jury was leaving, the judge said, "I know you may be tempted to talk about the case among yourselves, highly tempted, but I must admonish you not to discuss the case with anyone."

It was going to be a long night—for Shaw, the jury, everybody.

The jury returned for the extraordinary night session at 7:28 p.m., but Judge Haggerty didn't convene the session until 7:40

p.m.

There was an overflow of press and spectators for the night session, and some TV cameras whirred away in front of the old Criminal Courts bldg.

One newsman said, "Gee, this is just like opening night."

DYMOND ORATION

Dymond began his oration just after 7:40 p.m. He did not use a hand microphone and generally faced the jury box. It appeared that the jurors were intent on hearing what he had to say. But many newsmen and spectators sitting in the rear rows had extreme difficulty picking up his words.

Seldom did Dymond have any loud bursts of speech. He did not use any props as had Oser. But he did refer to Perry Raymond Russo's testimony often and read it considerably. He had the places marked in the testimony and turned readily to it.

Garrison got in on the tail-end of the presentation, slipping into the courtroom about 9:15 p.m.

Twice, Alcock got up to object about Dymond's summation, claiming that he was going far afield from the case or facts presented at the trial. Judge Haggerty upheld both objections, but there was no arguing between Dymond and Alcock.

Generally, Dymond delivered his two-hour speech in deliberate, calm tones. He gestured fairly regularly, and at times shook his head while telling of something he considered particularly unbelievable or questionable.

Mrs. Dymond sat opposite the jurors and seemed nervous before Dymond began his speech. But Dymond relaxed with fellow attorneys, William and Edward F. Wegmann, before the jury came in.