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Shaw Trial Hears Line Of Witnesses

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Prosecution witnesses at the Clay Shaw conspiracy trial told Friday of seeing two men with a gun in a window and a fleeing Lee Harvey Oswald driven away by a swarthy man after President Kennedy's assassination.

A parade of Texas witnesses gave details of the Dallas slaying in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's attempt to prove Kennedy was killed in a conspiratorial cross-fire. Shaw, 55, is charged with plotting to kill Kennedy.

The testimony conflicted with the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald alone killed Kennedy. The commission found no credible evidence of a conspiracy, and its findings have, in effect, gone on trial with Shaw.

Shaw's attorneys bitterly protested the repeated showing of a home movie of the assassination. A verbal battle erupted in a darkened courtroom when the film was stopped on the frame showing Kennedy's head exploded by a shot.

"Objection! They're trying to prejudice this jury," yelled defense attorney William Wegmann, leaping to his feet. Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr., his voice hoarse after four weeks of the trial, called for order amid a babble of voices.

The jury saw the film twice Friday, making a total of six times in two days. Said the judge: "They can run it a hundred times if they want to."

It was Roger Dean Craig, a former Dallas deputy sheriff now living in New Orleans, who testified he saw Oswald run down a slope from the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas about 20 minutes after the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963.

Craig said Oswald jumped into a waiting station wagon driven by a dark-complexioned man.

Craig, whose story was discounted by the Warren Commission, testified he reported what he saw to Capt. J. W. Fritz of the Dallas police and later, in Fritz's office, identified Oswald.

"He said, 'That station wagon belongs to Mrs. Paine. Don't try to drag her into this,'" Craig testified. "He leaned back in his chair and said, 'Everybody will know who I am now.'" The Mrs. Paine was Ruth Paine of Irving, Tex., a friend of Oswald and his wife.)

In its report, the Warren Commission said it "could not accept important elements of Craig's testimony." The report quoted Fritz as saying a deputy sheriff with a similar story asked to see Fritz, but that "Fritz did not bring him into his office to identify Oswald." Neither did Fritz nor any other officer remember the dramatic Oswald statement quoted by Craig, the report said.

The commission determined — on the basis of a bus transfer and testimony of a woman passenger — that Oswald walked from the depository and caught a bus.

Another witness, Mrs. Elizabeth Walther of Dallas, testified she looked toward the Book Depository moments before the shooting. "I saw two men in a window," she said.

"One was holding a gun and the other was standing beside him. The man holding the gun had on a white shirt," she said. "The other had on a brown suit coat."

Earlier, Garrison's own expert witness, who was called in an attempt to prove Garrison's theory that Kennedy was killed in a crossfire, testified that the evidence indicated the only shots that hit came from the rear.