

# Prosecution Rests Case Against Shaw

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NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 20—

District Attorney Jim Garrison rested his case of assassination conspiracy today as another of his prime witnesses, former Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas, became a witness for the defense.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. heard arguments and took under advisement a defense motion to direct a verdict of acquittal.

The Judge said he would not rule until 9 a.m. Friday.

Clay L. Shaw, 55-year-old former manager of the International Trade Mart here, has been on trial since Jan. 21 on a charge of conspiring to murder President Kennedy. Half the trial days were consumed by Garrison's efforts to discredit the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.

See SHAW, A8, Col. 1

# Garrison Rests Shaw Case

SHAW, From A1

Judge Haggerty stunned the State Wednesday by excluding prosecution evidence and declaring his disbelief in the testimony of a policeman, but he would shock nearly everyone if he were to throw out the entire case at this stage.

At this point in any criminal trial, the judge is required to give maximum credence to the prosecution's case whether or not he personally would vote to convict if he were a juror.

Connally became the second major figure in the case to be converted from a prosecution to a defense witness when the defense issued a subpoena for his appearance here. The first was FBI ballistics expert Robert A. Frazier, who was released from a State subpoena last weekend after a brief interview with prosecutors.

## Connally's Views

It was understood that Connally, who has publicly questioned the Warren Commission's conclusion that he and Mr. Kennedy had been struck by the same bullet, gave no encouragement to Garrison's lawyers when they interviewed him. Connally agrees with the Commission on the direction of rifle fire on the Dallas motorcade and has refused to join attacks on the Commission's good faith.

There was no official explanation for Garrison's abrupt strategy shift, but it appeared likely that the prosecution had completely misread the import of Connally's and agent Frazier's testimony before the Commission.

Defense attorneys refused to comment on their plans, except for hints that they may attempt to counter the State's case in roughly the same order as the State presented it, winding up with Shaw's testimony before the jury early next week.



Clay L. Shaw leaves courtroom after the prosecutor rests its conspiracy case against him.

First witnesses were expected to testify about events in and around Clinton, La., during the summer of 1963. State witnesses have placed Shaw, Oswald and David W. Ferrie together at the time in that rural area 120 miles from New Orleans. Shaw denies ever knowing his two alleged co-conspirators, both of whom are now dead.

Other witnesses added to the subpoena list indicated that the defense will mount a larger than expected defense of the Warren Commission. Defense attorney F. Irwin Dymond has sought to stress that the charge against Shaw was, logically at least, not connected with the Warren report

Col. Finck gave the Warren Commission his opinion that the President was shot from above and behind.

## Dallas Policemen

Capt. John W. Fritz and Lt. T. L. Baker of the Dallas police department were subpoenaed Wednesday. They are expected to contradict testimony by one-time deputy sheriff Roger D. Craig that Oswald virtually confessed at headquarters after his arrest.

Also subpoenaed is Mrs. Mary Bledsoe, who was Oswald's landlady and wound up on the same bus with him minutes after the assassination. She is expected to counter Craig's claim that he chased Oswald until he got away in a station wagon driven by a swarthy Latin.

Judge Haggerty stuck by his ruling against letting the jury hear a policeman testify that Shaw acknowledged using the alias 'Clay Bertrand' while being booked for conspiracy March 1, 1967. The Louisiana Supreme Court refused to review the judge's ruling despite an overnight appeal by the State.

The judge again stated that "I seriously doubt" the testimony of officer Aloysius J. Habighorst that the alias that appeared on his booking form had been given him orally by Shaw.

Dymond said evidence at yesterday's hearing suggested that the officer got the alias from other paper work prepared by the arresting officer.

itself, apparently in hopes that jurors who doubt the Commission won't take out their suspicions on his client.

A subpoena was issued for Army Col. Pierre A. Finck, a member of the three-doctor team of pathologists who performed the autopsy of the slain President at Bethesda Naval Hospital Nov. 23, 1963