

# Shaw Jury Told Front Shot Fits Film Evidence

File 2118/19

By Don McKee

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 17 (AP)—A University of Kansas pathologist testified at the Clay Shaw trial today that photographic evidence of President Kennedy's assassination was "compatible" with the fatal shot being fired from the front.

Over repeated defense objections, Dr. John M. Nichols gave his interpretation of the amateur movie of Mr. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas more than five years ago. His testimony contradicted an FBI photographic expert who said the evidence indicated Mr. Kennedy was shot from behind.

The key question and answer:

**Q.** Can you give your expert opinion as to the direction from which the President's head was struck?

**A.** After viewing the Zapruder film and photographs of the frames, I would say this is compatible with a gunshot having been delivered from the front.

## Reacted to Stimulus

Nichols also testified that, in his opinion, President Kennedy reacted to a stimulus, presumably pain, before the

fatal head shot, but that former Texas Gov. John Connally did not react at the same time.

Nichols' testimony ran counter to findings of the Warren Commission, which concluded that Mr. Kennedy and Connally were struck by the same bullet before the President was shot fatally in the head.

Nichols was called in District Attorney Jim Garrison's attempt to prove Mr. Kennedy died in a cross fire from at least two guns as the result of a conspiracy involving Shaw, 55, who is standing trial on a charge that he conspired to kill the President.

## Ninth Viewing

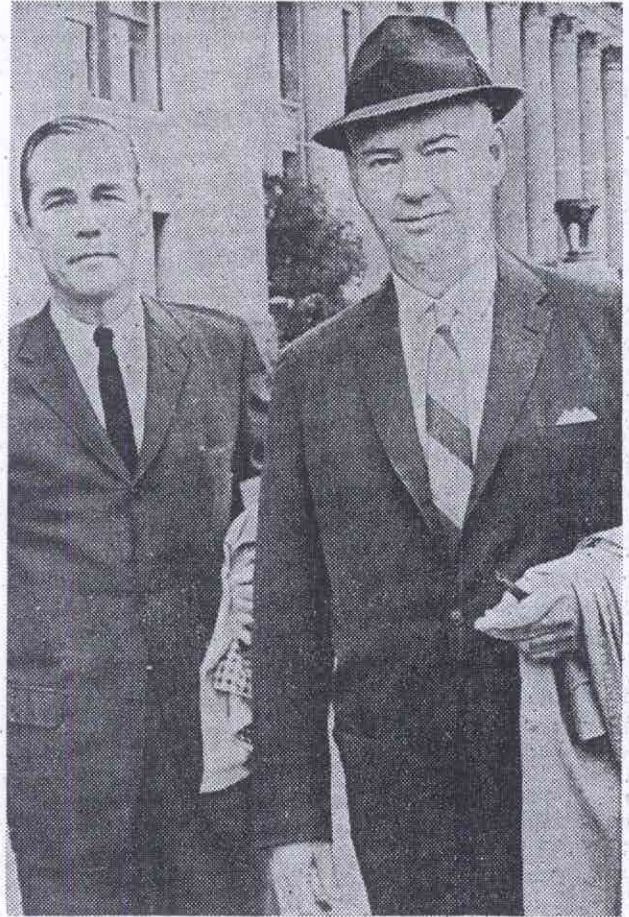
After Nichols was called to the stand, the jury viewed the Abraham Zapruder movie or slides from it for the ninth time in three days.

Once again the courtroom became an impromptu theater with spectators squeezing against a wall and into one section of seats permitting a view of the screen in the darkened room. Some knelt in the aisles. Other craned their necks from sitting positions. And three nuns in black and white habits were crowded up front.

Earlier, a retired FBI agent testified that he hunted a mysterious "Clay Bertrand" in New Orleans three days after President Kennedy's assassination.

## Attorney General Called

But a telephone call to the U.S. Attorney General for clearance was necessary before Regis L. Kennedy would answer two questions about the investigation. He said he was investigating the assassination and started a search



Associated Press

Retired FBI agent Regis Kennedy, right, leaves court in New Orleans after testifying in the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw that he spent some 20 hours searching for a "Clay Bertrand" after President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. With Kennedy is assistant U.S. attorney Harry Connick of New Orleans.

has identified Shaw as the "Clem Bertrand" who allegedly plotted with Oswald and David W. Ferrie, also now dead, to kill President Kennedy.

#### FBI Agent Testifies

Former agent Kennedy testified he spent perhaps 20 hours in a search for "Clay Bertrand." There was this exchange by chief prosecutor James L. Alcock and Kennedy:

**Q.** Was there any particular geographic location you concentrated on?

**A.** Yes.

**Q.** Where was that?

**A.** The French Quarter of New Orleans.

**Q.** Were you personally involved in the investigation of the assassination?

**A.** Mr. Alcock, I think that's outside the purview of what I'm authorized to testify to.

At Alcock's suggestion, Kennedy conferred with Harry Connick, an assistant U.S. attorney who was in the courtroom. Then a recess was taken while Connick cleared Alcock's written questions with Attorney General John Mitchell's office in Washington.

After the recess:

**Q.** Were you engaged in the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination?

**A.** Yes, I was.

**Q.** Were you seeking Clay Bertrand in connection with your over-all investigation of President Kennedy's assassination?

**A.** Yes, I was.

On cross-examination, chief defense counsel F. Irvin Dymond had one question.

**Q.** Mr. Kennedy, did you ever locate Clay Bertrand?

**A.** No, I didn't.

"That's all," Dymond said.

#### Another Witness

Another eyewitness to the assassination, William Newman of Dallas, told of seeing President Kennedy struck by the fatal shot to his head Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas's Dealey Plaza.

Like other Dallas witnesses, Newman was called upon to point out his position at the time on three exhibits—a drawing of the plaza, an aerial photograph and a mockup, on which he placed a small figure of a man, representing himself.

"From the sound of the shots, it sounded like they were coming from directly behind me," he said, indicating the grassy knoll area—not the Texas School Book Depository, from which, the Warren Commission said, Oswald alone fired the fatal shots.

for "Bertrand" after a telephone call from Dean Andrews, former Jefferson Parish assistant district attorney. Andrews later was convicted of perjury in Garrison's investigation.

It is Garrison's contention that Shaw was the "Clay Bertrand" who telephoned Andrews in an effort to get a lawyer for Lee Harvey Oswald, who was charged with the President's murder but was shot to death himself only two days later.

A key prosecution witness