

3 Garrison Witnesses Link Shaw, Oswald

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 6 (UPI)—District Attorney Jim Garrison told the Clay L. Shaw jury today that President John F. Kennedy was killed by a conspiracy, and then put three witnesses on the stand who placed Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald in the same town three months before the assassination.

Garrison told the jury in Shaw's trial on charges of conspiring to kill Kennedy with Oswald and David W. Ferrie that the fatal shot in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, came from the front, not from behind as the Warren Report says, and that Oswald did not fire it.

The defense countered that Garrison's whole case was a fabrication, hung on the testimony of a "notoriety-seeking

liar" and "came out of the woodwork" after both Oswald and Ferrie were dead and could not be questioned to corroborate it.

The three witnesses then took the stand—the first testimony in Shaw's trial. District Judge Edward A. Haggerty recessed the trial after they testified until 9 a.m. Friday.

Henry Earl Palmer, registrar of voters in East Feliciana Parish, La., said Oswald tried to register as a voter in late August or early September of 1963 while a black Cadillac was parked outside.

John Manchester, town marshal of Clinton, a small town 130 miles north of New Orleans, pointed to Shaw, sitting in the courtroom, and said he was the driver of the Cadillac.

See SHAW, A4, Col. 4

SHAW, From A1

Palmer said Oswald told him he lived in New Orleans and wanted to register as a voter so it might help him get a job at the East Louisiana State Hospital at nearby Clinton. Palmer said he declined to register Oswald.

Corrie Collins, a leader of the Congress of Racial Equality voter registration drive in East Feliciana Parish in 1963, testified that he recognized Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald in the Cadillac.

Collins said he later identified the pictures of all three men when he saw them in newspapers.

Defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond tried on cross examination to shake Collins' testimony.

"Now this man you identify as Lee Harvey Oswald—how was he dressed?" Dymond asked.

"He was dressed neat," Collins said. "He had on slacks and a light colored shirt."

'No One Asked Me'

Dymond asked Collins if he had heard of the Warren Commission and why didn't he tell the Commission what he had seen at the registrar's of-

fice.

"No one asked me," Collins said.

"On the basis of a picture you saw in the paper, you recognized a man you saw 20 or 30 feet away over three years before?" Dymond asked.

"I've seen him (Shaw) since," Collins said.

"When?" Dymond asked.

"In this courtroom," Collins replied.

The witnesses testified after Garrison, making one of his rare courtroom appearances, made it plain in a 42-minute opening statement to the all-male jury that he would put the Warren Commission and its report on trial, too.

Dymond countered that he would prove Shaw's main accuser, Perry Raymond Russo, was lying when he told a preliminary hearing in 1967 that he heard Shaw conspiring to kill Kennedy with Oswald and Ferrie in the fall of 1963.

'Out of the Woodwork'

Dymond said it was only after Ferrie died of a cerebral hemorrhage in early 1967 and it was apparent, with Oswald also dead, the conspiracy story could be pressed, that "the roaches came out of the woodwork."

"We will show you that this witness Russo is totally unworthy of believing," Dymond said.

Dymond said Shaw "never laid eyes" on either Oswald and/or Ferrie and that Russo, a Baton Rouge, La., insurance salesman, once commented that "if I stick with my story, Shaw and his lawyers will get me. If I change my story, Garrison will ruin me."

After two weeks of laboriously picking jurors from more than 1000 veniremen, the Shaw trial was finally under way with the opening statements by Garrison and Dymond.

Garrison never flatly said the plot against Kennedy, of which he accuses Shaw, actually took the President's life on Nov. 22, 1963.

He did not say who he

thought the real assassin was.

But in Washington, a judge who has been asked by Garrison to order Kennedy autopsy evidence turned over to him, said the District Attorney planned to prove that "Kennedy was killed as part of the conspiracy . . ."

Garrison's Statement

Garrison told the jury trying the 55-year-old retired New Orleans businessman that the state would prove:

- The shots that killed Kennedy in Dealey Plaza came from "different guns from different locations."

- Oswald, who was named by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin, conspired with Shaw as early as June, 1963, in a French Quarter apartment in New Orleans.

- Oswald carried the rifle later identified by the Warren Commission as the murder weapon into the Texas School Book Depository Building and took part in the gunfire. But the shot which actually killed the President came from another direction.

- Oswald did not escape by cab and bus from the murder scene as the Warren Report said, but ran down the grass in front of the Depository Building and got away in a station wagon driven by another man.

- Shaw received mail under the name "Clay Bertrand"—the mysterious figure, never found, who is mentioned in the Warren Report as an acquaintance of Oswald's.

"As to the planning—the conspiracy—our jurisdiction is limited to New Orleans, although we will later offer evidence concerning the assassination in Dealey Plaza in Dallas because it confirms the existence of a conspiracy and because it confirms the significance and relevance of the planning which occurred in New Orleans," Garrison told the jury.

Request Renewed

In a letter mailed to Judge Charles Halleck of the District of Columbia General Sessions Court in Washington, Garrison renewed his request for evidence from the Kennedy autopsy locked up in the National Archives. He said he needed it to show that the alleged Shaw conspiracy was linked to the Dallas murder.

Halleck twice before had

turned down requests for photographs and X-rays of the autopsy, as well as the clothes Kennedy was wearing when he was killed. The judge did not indicate whether he now would release the evidence.

Halleck said he got the latest statements from Garrison's office in the mail today and the prosecutors "intend to prove to the jury that Kennedy was killed as part of the conspiracy and by shots from two or more directions."

After 14 days of selecting a jury, the 'actual trial—the "moment to turn" Garrison had been calling for—arrived today.

Shaw, in a gray suit alter-

nately puffing on a cigarette and tapping his teeth with a blue ball-point pen, glared at Garrison as the 6-foot-6 prosecutor laid down the "blueprint" of his case.

"We will show, that, a few minutes after the shooting, Lee Oswald came running down the grass in front of the Book Depository, that he climbed into a station wagon with another man at the wheel, that the wagon pulled away into the traffic on Elm Street," Garrison told the jury.

Many points in the opening statement had been disclosed

in various hearings and interviews since Shaw was arrested on March 1, 1967.

There were two new disclosures.

One was Garrison's flat statement, later corroborated by the three witnesses, that Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald went to Clinton, La., in late August or early September, 1963, in a black Cadillac.

Garrison also said he will prove that five letters, addressed that five letters addressed to Clay Bertrand were delivered to 1414 Chartres Street, New Orleans, an address to which Shaw asked the

U.S. Post Office to temporarily deliver his mail in 1966.

In presenting his opening statement, Garrison omitted one of the six overt acts he had announced earlier he would prove. The one he left out said the State would prove that Shaw met in Baton Rouge with Oswald, Ferrie and the late Jack Ruby and gave a "sum of money" to Ruby and Oswald.

That dropped Ruby's name out of the case. Ruby, a Dallas strip-teaser club operator, killed Oswald in the basement of Dallas Police Headquarters on Nov. 24, 1963.