



Associated Press

Spiesel (right) leads Shaw jury in a vain search for apartment at which he says he met Shaw (left) and Ferrie.

## Shaw Witness Fails To Find Party Site

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NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 8— Surprise prosecution witness Charles I. Spiesel led the Clay L. Shaw jury, judge and lawyers on a vain search of the French Quarter today in quest of an apartment that would corroborate his testimony.

The unusual legal excursion—during which Spiesel and the jury trooped through an apartment occupied by two women, one of whom was still in bed—coincided with the beginning of the Mardi Gras celebration here. Parade watchers and residents suddenly found themselves in the midst of a criminal trial.

Spiesel, by now more of a surprise to the District Attorney and increasingly a delight to the defense counsel, then

returned to the witness stand to admit that he could not pinpoint the site of a 1963 party at which, he said, Shaw was the host and the late David Ferrie an invited guest.

The prosecution, which had sprung the 50-year-old accountant as a witness on short notice, then requested a weekend recess to check Spiesel's description of the party location against building records. The defense, which has been making its own search of French Quarter apartments, raised no objection.

If believed by the jury, Spiesel's testimony about the party would be telling evidence in prosecutor Jim Garrison's conspiracy case.

See SHAW, A10, Col. 7

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SHAW, From A1

Shaw, a retired business promoter, is charged with plotting the assassination of President Kennedy together with Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald.

Defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond, apparently convinced that Garrison's case had suffered a severe reversal, tried to prolong Spiesel's stint on the witness stand. He savored every paragraph of a \$16 million lawsuit in which Spiesel charged that he had been conspired against, hypnotized and financially destroyed by New York police and others.

This testimony set the stage for Monday's scheduled appearance of Garrison's star witness, Perry Russo, 28-year-old sometime insurance salesman. Russo testified two years ago that hypnosis—far from driving him to distraction in his work—helped him remember another party, this one attended by both Shaw and Oswald in Ferrie's apartment, where the three men refined the Kennedy murder plans.

Spiesel's apartment-hunting tour—uncommon for trails but not wholly out of place in this bizarre case—brought the jury briefly from the dingy Criminal Court building into a charming section of a city that is beginning to fill up with Mardi Gras revelers.

The jurors and the witness were bussed to the corner of Esplanade Avenue and Dauphine st. on the edge of the French Quarter. The corner is two doors from Shaw's own restored home on Dauphine st.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr., carefully instructed Spiesel to "lead us where you want to lead us" but to withhold any statement until he returned to the stand.

Oak-lined Esplanade Avenue attracted curious onlookers,

newsmen and cameramen on a warm, sunny morning. The jury remained under guard by Judge Haggerty's courthouse.

Spiesel concluded the tour upon inspecting two buildings—the Dauphine Apartments and the Esplanade Apartments around the corner.

He testified that the Esplanade building looked similar to the one he described in testimony Friday and that certain things about the second-floor apartment were also similar.

However, Spiesel conceded that there was a key difference between the two. The party apartment had a combination dining room-kitchen in which a dozen men talked around an oval table. The apartment he visited today had a wall between kitchen and dining room.

Spiesel had testified that, in an apartment on this corner, he and Ferrie joined a party in June, 1963, five months before Mr. Kennedy was assassinated. He said he was told that Shaw had borrowed the apartment from two girls, who were away.

It was at this party, said Spiesel, that Ferrie, Shaw and a slightly built, bearded young man he could not identify as Oswald, entered a discussion that turned quickly from criticism of Mr. Kennedy to serious talk of murder and escape methods.

Throughout his half-hour tour, Spiesel, dressed in a gray, pinstriped suit and dark-red tie, appeared unruffled by the pressures of the trial.

He conducted the tour in response to Dymond's challenge that, in view of Spiesel's avowed fears of Communist and other conspiracies against him, "it is vitally important to know just whether this is actual testimony or delusory testimony."