

Form No. 15-1a
(Rev. 8-17-64)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1.				
2.	<i>Mr Sessions</i>			
3.				
4.				

6/8/67

<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED
<input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____		

REMARKS *Cliff*

Re. trip & press conference.

I hope the A.G. says

"no comment" to any

questions about Garrison,

Clay Shaw - or Bertrand et al!

Note attachments.

Returning Dorothy Jones Valt.

FROM:	NAME	BUILDING, ROOM, EXT.	DATE
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	Internal Security Division		
		<i>file 129-11</i>	
		<i>to</i>	

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Justice Admits Error In Shaw-Bertrand Tie

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Department of Justice still has no evidence to indicate that he used such an alias.

The Attorney General's comment on March 2 that Mr. Shaw was involved in the investigation," the Department added, "was based on a briefing that morning."

The Attorney General has since determined that this was erroneous. Nothing arose (in 1963) indicating a need to investigate Mr. Shaw."

Shaw, a 54-year-old New Orleans businessman, has been accused by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison of plotting to kill the late President under the alias of "Clay Bertrand."

Shaw has vehemently denied any role in the convoluted conspiracy that Garrison has alleged. He has also denied ever using "Clay Bertrand" as an alias.

The day after Shaw's March 1 arrest, however, Attorney General Clark told reporters in an impromptu news conference on Capitol Hill that Shaw had been "checked out and cleared" by the FBI in the weeks following the assassination in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

For Shaw, the statement caused only trouble. The FBI never investigated anyone named Clay Shaw in 1963. It did check into allegations surrounding a "Clay Bertrand"—who was said to have sought legal help for Lee Harvey Oswald, accused slayer, after the assassination — but decided, without ever finding "Bertrand," that they were without substance.

For Clark to say that Shaw had been "checked out," consequently, amounted to saying that Shaw was Bertrand. "We think it's the same guy," one Department official said on March 2.

In recent weeks, Garrison has seized on this as proof of his claims.

The Justice Department's initial impression, however, apparently based on first-blush reports of informants in New Orleans after Shaw's arrest, was repudiated by yesterday's statement. It was issued after a May 24 request by Shaw's attorney, Edward F. Wegmann, for "a public clarification."

"No evidence was found (in 1963) that Clay Shaw was ever called 'Clay Bertrand,' the Justice spokesman said. He added that the Department

*Trans, to & related hearing
that he and Ethel
New Orleans business man
may have been
sent on alias
We should be
careful in public
statements in view
of the possibility
that Garrison
may be able to
prove that he
was attacked.*

- () Crandall
- () Cabbage
- () ~~Flanagan~~
- () Kaplan
- () Moore
- () Oliver
- () White
- () Williams
- () Worth
- () - ~~W~~

cc 121-11