

Informer Talks

Affidavit Links Shaw, Oswald in 'Kennedy Plot'

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New Orleans

A district attorney's affidavit alleged yesterday that Lee Harvey Oswald plotted with civic leader Clay Shaw and others "the means and manner" of assassinating President Kennedy.

The affidavit stated the information was supplied by an informant said to have been with the alleged conspirators when the plot was formulated.

The assassination was planned at meetings in the apartment of David W. Ferrie, who died under controversial circumstances February 22, the affidavit stated.

PERSON

Ferrie was the only other person besides Oswald and Shaw identified by name in the affidavit.

However, Shaw, 54, denied any implication in the death of the President in his first public statement since his arrest Wednesday on a charge of "conspiracy to murder." He said in a statement:

"I am shocked and dismayed at the charges which have been filed against me. I have not conspired with anyone at any time or any place to murder our late and esteemed President, John F. Kennedy, or anyone else."

Shaw, later freed on \$10,000 bond, added:

"I do not know Harvey Lee Oswald nor to the best of my knowledge know anyone who

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knew him. I have never seen or spoken to Oswald . . ."

In an apparent move to link Shaw to Oswald, District Attorney Jim Garrison yesterday subpoenaed a local attorney, Dean Andrews, for questioning.

Andrews had told investigators in 1963 that a man named Clay Bertrand had

telephoned and asked him to represent Oswald after his arrest in Dallas.

In the affidavit filed by Garrison's chief investigator, Louis Ivon, Shaw was identified as "alias Clay Bertrand."

The name Bertrand appeared in the Warren Commission report, but its investigators could find no one by that name.

Clay's arrest triggered a series of reactions and developments around the world:

In Washington, the new attorney general, Ramsey Clark, said an FBI investigation in late 1963 had cleared Shaw of any part in the assassination. "On the evidence that the FBI has, there was no connection found," Clark said.

President Johnson said he knows nothing about Garrison's probe except what he reads in the papers and sees no reason to change his previous statements accepting the conclusions of the Warren Commission.

In Lubbock, Tex., R. E. Denson, of Dallas, who headed an intensive investigation for the defense of the late Jack Ruby, convicted killer of Oswald, said he had been unable to uncover a New Orleans conspiracy. "Frankly, I didn't know of anything that could develop," Denson said.

The district attorney's affidavit cleared the way for a warrant to search Shaw's luxurious residence in the French Quarter. Investigators found:

A rope, chains, whips, a leather strap, a cartridge belt, a black hood and cape, a black gown, a shotgun and gun case and miscellaneous papers and books, including three calendar appointment books.

The affidavit was submitted to Acting Magistrate Bernard J. Bagert who set March 14 for a preliminary hearing for Shaw. The request for the hearing was made by Garrison's office, an unusual move for the prosecution.

Guy Johnson, one of Shaw's attorneys, said: "We do not understand the motivation of Mr. Garrison. There is no argument that Mr. Shaw has a right to a preliminary hearing but I'm not asking for it."

The hearing will consider the booking under a statute "relative to conspiring and entering in an agreement or combination with one or more other persons for the purpose of committing the crime of murder of John F. Kennedy."

The affidavit detailed what the district attorney's office said were the circumstances of the plot.

It said Oswald, Shaw, David William Ferrie, others and an informant "were discussing how they would kill John F. Kennedy, President of the United States."

"At these meetings there was discussion and agreement to carry out this conspiracy.

" . . . (the) informant heard these subjects discuss



AP Wirephoto

CLAY SHAW
Whips in apartment

the means and manner of carrying out this agreement."

The affidavit said the informant, "after giving this statement to the affiant, voluntarily submitted to sodium pentothal, commonly known as truth serum, which was administered under the care and control and supervision of the coroner for the Parish (county) of Orleans, a medical doctor.

"That the confidential informant while under the sodium pentothal verified, corroborated and reaffirms his earlier statements."

Shaw, a silver-haired bebonair bachelor, immaculately tailored in heavy brown tweed, read his statement in the office of one of his attorneys, Edward Wegmann.

Shaw said he had initially been questioned by Garrison "around Christmas time" and was then asked about the "Cuban incident" involving Oswald.

The incident occurred outside Shaw's office in the old Trade Mart building in August, 1963, when Oswald scuffled with anti-Castro Cubans. He was distributing Fair Play for Cuba leaflets at the time.

Shaw was arrested following another interrogation in Garrison's office Wednesday afternoon.