

GRAND JURY OPENS HEARING ON 'PLOT'

2 Witnesses Subpoenaed in Inquiry on Assassination

By GENE ROBERTS
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NEW ORLEANS, March 9—A 12-member grand jury today joined District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation into an alleged plot that led to the assassination of President Kennedy.

The grand jury, which includes some of this city's best-known citizens, began by questioning Dean Andrews, Jr., a New Orleans area lawyer who had talked previously to both Mr. Garrison's investigators and the Warren Commission.

The jury also questioned Mrs. Josephine Hug, who once worked for Clay J. Shaw, a retired New Orleans business executive, who has been arrested and accused but not formally charged by Mr. Garrison's office of having participated in a conspiracy to kill the President.

"She has pledged her cooperation," Mrs. Hug's lawyer, James Gelpi, told newsmen, "and in furtherance of that will not be able to make any further statement."

Meanwhile, Mr. Garrison's staff declined to comment on why the grand jury had been called into the case before next Tuesday's preliminary hearing into Mr. Shaw's arrest.

This is rare legal procedure in Louisiana and the second unusual legal move Mr. Garrison's office has made since Mr. Shaw's arrest a week ago. Mr. Garrison had earlier surprised court observers here by asking for the preliminary hearing.

Usual Procedure

Normally, the district attorney files formal charges and a bill of particulars against a de-

fendant. Then, the defendant, if he desires, can ask for a preliminary hearing in an effort to learn more about the nature of the charges against him.

When questioned about the grand jury, James Alcock, an assistant to Mr. Garrison, would say only that he doubted that Mr. Shaw would be subpoenaed before the jury, and that he was "almost 100 per cent sure" that there would be no indictments returned before Tuesday's hearing.

Mr. Andrews, the first witness to appear before the grand jury, said in testimony before a Warren Commission staff member that a mysterious figure named "Clay Bertrand" had once sent Lee Harvey Oswald and several Latin-American homosexuals to his law office.

During testimony in July, 1964, Mr. Andrews conceded that he had told the Federal Bureau of Investigation that Mr. Bertrand was a figment of his imagination. But he contended that he had said this only because "the feebees"—his name for the F.B.I.—were on him "like the plague."

Knowledge Disclaimed

Last week, however, Sam Monk Zelden, Mr. Andrews's attorney, said his client does not know whether Clay Bertrand and Mr. Shaw are the same person—an accusation made by Mr. Garrison's office in a search warrant application last week.

Wesley J. Liebeler, a staff member of the Warren Commission, said an F.B.I. investigation had failed to produce any evidence of the existence of a Clay Bertrand.

Mr. Garrison's office contends that "Clay Shaw, alias Clay Bertrand," Oswald and "others" met in New Orleans in September, 1963, to plot the assassination of President Kennedy.

The Warren Commission concluded after 10 months of investigation that Oswald had killed President Kennedy alone and unaided and without being a part of any conspiracy. Mr. Shaw also denies any knowledge of an assassination plot.