

Face the Nation, CBS March 12, 1967
 Atty Gen. Ramsey Clark,

Martin Agronsky --Mr. Attorney General, one of the first arrests that has been made by the District Attorney in New Orleans, Mr. Garrison, was a gentlemen called Clay Shaw, which the district attorney says is an alias for a man named Clay Bertrand who was mentioned in the Warren Report. One of your first statements when you became attorney general was that the FBI had already investigated and had cleared Clay Shaw of any part in the assassination of President Kennedy. Yet, Shaw's name is never mentioned anywhere in the Warren Commission Report. Why is that, and is there any identity (?) between Shaw and Bertrand ?

Clark -- under the circumstances, that is, in view of the fact that there will be a hearing in New Orleans Tuesday, I really think it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the case. Mr. Garrison has not offered us any evidence that he may have -- I am unable to say why he hasn't done this -- it would seem to me to be the natural thing for any prosecuting ^{or} to do. But as of this time, and without ¹ real~~ly~~ doubt, I would stand by Mr. Hoover 's remarks in 1966, that not one shed of evidence links any/^{other}conspirator to Oswald in the assassination.x of President John ff. Kennedy.

Q -- General Clark, have you asked Mr. Garrison for the evidence that he has in this case ?

Clark -- We've had no direct communications in view of the attitude that he has taken.

Q -- I can understand your reluctance to get involved in the case which is now to be heard, but I think perhaps it is fair enough to look back -- you say the FBI has investigated, and yet you did say in the statement after your confirmation the FBI had investigated ^{of that} him, and yet there is no documentation/in the Warren Commission Report, and we're just trying to find out how and when it happened.

Clark -- There was a comprehensive investigation by the FBI

involving these New Orleans allegations, and, well, that's, in fact, most of those reports have been made public, and they support the conclusion of the FBI that Oswald acted alone.

Q -- Was this FBI investigation for the Warren Commission, Sir?

Clark -- Yes it was.

Q -- I see.

Q -- Well --

Q -- Go ahead, George.

Q -- Alright, the only part of it I don't understand -- Presumably, then this part of it is part of the secret material of the Warren Commission documents which have not^{yet} been released which are kept confidential in the Archives.

Clark -- Well some of the information developed by the FBI in that investigation in New Orleans has been released, and many of the people whose names have been in the newspapers recently from New Orleans have been -- uh -- their names are in these earlier FBI reports. All of the information that was developed there, as is true in all the aspects of the investigation, have not been released for a broad variety of reasons.

Q -- Well then, that brings up just one other case, if I may. Immediately ~~immediately~~ after Jack Ruby's death, in fact less than 24 hours after Jack Ruby's death, the Ruby material was released in the Archives. Now Mr. Ferrie has been dead several weeks and the Ferrie material is still classified. I wonder if that's at the order of the FBI and the Department of Justice.

Clark -- No, those documents are under the general jurisdiction of the General Services Administration at this time. There's been a policy, and I think a wise one, not to release data about individuals that might affect their character reputation where it has no relevance^{to the} ~~the~~ Warren Commission investigation or to the assassination of President Kennedy, and this we have followed.

Q -- That implies that you believe and that the Services Administration believes that the Ferrie material has no relevance.

Clark -- That's true.

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Q -- Can you clear up this Shaw-Bertrand thing for us. Is Shaw an alias for Bertrand as Garrison contends it is ?

Clark -- Well as I said earlier I don't think it would be fair for me to really comment on that in way in view of the state proceeding. We certainly don't want to interfere in any way with the state proceeding. It's absolutely essential that history know the truth in this matter. I am disturbed and saddened that so much publicity, so much agitation, so much doubt is created. I think that's unfortunate for this country because this is a matter that affects us all sorely. The assassination of President Kennedy has left a deep mark on the lives of all of us. It's something that we should be highly sensitive about, and we should seek the truth in the most circumspect and cautious methods.

Q -- Doesn't the federal government have any role or any interest directly in this business in New Orleans? Is it a friend of the court? Should it be in attendance, should it have some presence there ?

Clark -- No, I think not. I think our state and federal system is adequate to every type of matter that arises that I've ever seen, including this one . I think this is something for the state and I hope they'll proceed with dignity.

Q -- In the last couple of weeks there have been stories out of New York as well as New Orleans about assassination teams allegedly sent by Castro in efforts to kill President Kennedy. Do you know anything about FBI reports on those teams ?

Clark -- There have been studies of these matters. We have nothing that indicates any evidence of a conspiracy. And we stand on that on the basis of our investigation. There is a morbid fascination about the assassination, there have been rumors running rampant ever since the assassination, and I suppose it's been ~~the~~ historically the case when a great man dies under such circumstances there will be doubt, intrigue and inquiry

be doubt, intrigue and inquiry for a long time. I believe that the Warren Commission investigation was the most comprehensive and definitive investigation of a series of facts ever undertaken, and there's overwhelming evidence in its support its conclusion that Oswald acted alone. And until there is evidence to the contrary, I will stand with the Warren Commission.

Q -- Don't you find it curious, Sir, that the district attorney of New Orleans, having all of the evidence that is at your disposal, persists in this investigation and indicates that he has new evidence which he has not turned over to the federal government or to you as you requested ?

Clark -- Yes, I find it curious and I find it disturbing and I find it saddening.

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George Herman, CBS, and James Clayton, Washington Post.