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BY JOHN S. LANG

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 5 (AP)-ATTORNEYS FOR CLAY L. SHAW ENTERED A PLEA OF INNOCENT TODAY AT SHAW'S ARRAIGNMENT ON A CHARGE OF CONSPIRING TO MURDER PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

SHAW, SMILING AND CHAIN SMOKING DURING THE FOUR-MINUTE COURT APPEARANCE, SAID NOTHING.

THE 54-YEAR-OLD RETIRED MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE MART HERE WAS ARRESTED MARCH 1 BY DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON. A SUBSEQUENT GRAND JURY INDICTMENT ACCUSED SHAW OF CONSPIRING IN MID-SEPTEMBER 1963 WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND OTHERS TO KILL KENNEDY.

CRIMINAL DIST. COURT JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY JR. ACCEPTED SHAW'S PLEA AND GRANTED THE DEFENSE 30 DAYS IN WHICH TO FILE MOTIONS IN THE CASE. HE SAID THE STATE WOULD HAVE AN ADDITIONAL 30 DAYS IN WHICH TO FILE ANSWERS TO THE MOTIONS.

AS A TECHNICALITY, SHAW'S ATTORNEYS WITHDREW THE INNOCENT PLEA PENDING FILING OF THE MOTIONS. THEY SAID THIS WAS MERELY A LEGAL FORMALITY AND THE INNOCENT PLEA WOULD BE REINSTATED WHEN NECESSARY.

SHAW'S LAWYERS TOLD NEWSMEN A DEFENSE FUND HAS BEEN STARTED FOR SHAW. THEY DID NOT DISCLOSE DETAILS.

EDWARD F. WEGMANN, ONE OF SHAW'S ATTORNEYS, SAID A HEARING ON THE DEFENSE MOTIONS WOULD BE SCHEDULED AFTER THE STATE HAS REPLIED.

THEN, IF ETC., 6TH GRAF PVS.

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PROBE 240

NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 5 (AP)-A DEFENSE LAWYER ESTIMATES IT MAY BE SIX MONTHS BEFORE A DATE IS SET FOR THE TRIAL OF CLAY L. SHAW, 54-YEAR-OLD RETIRED EXECUTIVE CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING TO MURDER PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

SOME OF THE LEGAL STEPS IN THE CASE WERE DETAILED BY ATTORNEY EDWARD F. WEGMANN PRIOR TO TODAY'S ARRAIGNMENT BEFORE CRIMINAL DIST. JUDGE E. A. HAGGERTY JR.

ARRAIGNMENTS ARE A FORMALITY IN WHICH THE INDICTMENT IS READ TO THE ACCUSED AND A PLEA IS ENTERED.

WEGMANN SAID HAGGERTY ASSURED HIM THAT, AFTER SHAW'S PLEA OF INNOCENT, THE DEFENSE WOULD BE GRANTED 30 DAYS IN WHICH TO FILE NEW MOTIONS IN THE CASE.

WHEN MOTIONS ARE FILED, DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S OFFICE MAY ASK TIME IN WHICH TO FILE REPLIES. AT THE END OF THIS PERIOD, A DATE FOR A HEARING ON THE MOTIONS IS SET.

THEN, IF MOTIONS ARE DENIED, THE DEFENSE MAY APPEAL TO THE STATE SUPREME COURT.

"OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT IT WILL BE THREE TO SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE COURT REACHES THE POINT OF CONSIDERING A TRIAL DATE," SAID WEGMANN.

GARRISON, WHO HAS MADE NO COMMENT IN WEEKS, ACCUSED SHAW OF CONSPIRING WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND DAVID W. FERRIE TO KILL KENNEDY. BOTH FERRIE AND OSWALD ARE DEAD.

THE WARREN COMMISSION NAMED OSWALD, A FORMER NEW ORLEANS RESIDENT, AS THE ASSASSIN OF KENNEDY IN DALLAS NOV. 22, 1963, AND SAID THERE WAS NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE OF ANY CONSPIRACY.

HAGGERTY HAS FORBIDDEN ANYONE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CASE TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY EVIDENCE.

THE JUDGE SPECIFIED THAT HIS BAN APPLIED TO "ALL ATTORNEYS, POLICE, INVESTIGATORS, WITNESSES, AND ANY PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OFFICIALLY CONNECTED WITH THE PROCESSES OF THIS COURT."

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