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# Shaw Plea: Innocent of Plot to Kill JFK

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — Businessman-playwright Clay L. Shaw, erect and outwardly calm, pleaded innocent today to charges that he conspired to assassinate President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

Judge Edward Haggerty Jr. gave Shaw's attorneys until May 5 to file motions in the case. He said he would give prosecutors another 30 days after that — or until early June — to file answers.

Shaw, clad in a brown suit, appeared calm before, during and after the 10-minute proceedings.

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**HE ENTERED** the courtroom about 10 minutes prior to the arraignment, smoked, talked casually with court attaches and smiled frequently. He stood silently while the indictment against him was read.

Shaw was indicted in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination for allegedly meeting with Lee Harvey Oswald and pilot David W. Ferrie in September of 1963 to plot the President's death.

Kennedy was killed Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas. The Warren Commission named Oswald the killer and said the evidence indicated he acted

alone. The same grand jury which handed down the indictment heard testimony for 15 minutes today from Ranny Elchinger, an acquaintance of Gordon Novel, whom Garrison has had arrested.

Novel is out on bond at Columbus, Ohio, fighting extradition on Garrison's charges that he is a material witness in the probe, and that he conspired to steal munitions in Louisiana in 1961.

Elchinger was represented by Novel's New Orleans attorney, Steve Plotkin.

Plotkin would not allow his client to tell newsmen anything but his name.

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**PLOTKIN SAID** Elchinger was appearing before the grand jury at Garrison's request. As Elchinger walked into the grand jury room, Plotkin told him:

"I can't go in with you. Just do your best."

The grand jury today also subpoenaed two New Orleans television newsmen — Richard Townley of WDSU-TV; and Bill Edler of WWL-TV.

Novel said at Columbus Tuesday Garrison's investigation was a politically motivated fraud, and he would "blow the case wide open."