

Innocent Plea in JFK Plot

By United Press International
and The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Retired businessman Clay Shaw, erect and outwardly calm, pleaded innocent today to charges that he conspired to assassinate President 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 June — to reply.

CASUAL

Shaw 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 District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation into an alleged New Orleans meeting with Lee Harvey Oswald and pilot David W. Ferrie in September, 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.

TESTIMONY

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, now in Columbus, Ohio, is 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.

Novel's New Orleans attorney, Steve Plotkin, said Elchinger was appearing before the grand jury at Garrison's request.



CLAY SHAW ARRIVES AT COURT TODAY
Pleaded innocent to assassination conspiracy plot

—UPI Photo

In Houston, meanwhile, Norman Hooten, the former Dallas deputy sheriff who says Jack Ruby made many disclosures to him, has resigned as a game warden.

UNDER FIRE

He said he resigned under fire from his superior.

Hooten was a guard in the Dallas county jail while Ruby was confined there for killing Oswald. Ruby died Jan. 3 of cancer while awaiting a new trial for the Oswald killing.

Hooten says he is writing a book about what Ruby told him in jail. He also said Ruby wrote a will in jail that left Hooten several small items.

Hooten said his boss, J. R. Singleton, executive director of the state Parks and Wildlife Department, told him he had "no business being involved in writing any books about Jack Ruby or knowing anything about the assassination or anything else."

But Singleton said today that Hooten resigned of his own accord.