

'DA PLAYING OLD SHELL GAME'

^{13 May 1967}
Number Friend's
P.O. Box--Shaw

Clay L. Shaw says a post office box number in his notebook is that of a business friend, and the Kennedy murder plot suspect's attorneys have termed Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's discovery of an Oswald-Shaw code "the old shell game."

Their comments came almost immediately after the DA told Criminal District Court here yesterday that his office has broken a telephone number code which he said appears in the notebooks of both Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald.

Garrison said in a formal pleading that deciphering of notebooks had revealed the 1963 unpublished telephone number of Jack Ruby at Dallas.

HE POINTED TO the presence of "P.O. 19106" in Oswald's notes and "P.O. Box 19106" in Shaw's. The Shaw notation also contains the name "Lee Odom" and "Dallas, Tex."

The DA said there was no general post office box by that number in Dallas in 1963.

Shaw's lawyers quickly answered that Lee Odom is a business associate whom their client met in 1965. They said the post office box number refers to his business address.

Official sources at the Dallas Post Office said today the post box numbered 19106 came into existence in late 1965. Prior to that there was no such box listing.

The post office box now being used under that number

is in the Medical Center Station at Knight and Maple sts. Dallas sources said the area is in Oak Lawn, which is across town from the onetime residences of Oswald and Ruby.

DALLAS NEWSMEN could find no Lee Odom listed in any standard telephone or city directory.

Postal officials said it would require a search of files to find who now leases P. O. Box 19106, and that this could not be done until Monday.

The defense attorneys said they viewed the notation of the same post office box ad-

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dress in the Shaw and Oswald notes as a coincidence and not a clue.

GARRISON, IN A formal answer to defense demands for return of Shaw's effects seized in a search of his French Quarter home March 1, said of the identical numbers:

"When two parties have precisely the same nonexistent or fictional number in their address books, the possibility of coincidence is removed because of the uniqueness of a selected non-existent number."

The Garrison answer explained at great length how the number was encoded and how the cryptographic notation was deciphered.

He said Oswald used the standard telephone dial to convert exchange prefixes into letters and applied a relatively simple enciphering method to encoding the numbers.

WHEN TRANSLATED, he added, the P.O. 19106 reference becomes Ruby's private unlisted phone number in 1963, Whitehall 1-5601.

Shaw, a 54-year-old retired New Orleans businessman, was indicted March 22 for allegedly complicity in the slaying of President John F. Kennedy at Dallas in 1963.

Garrison charged that Shaw conspired with Oswald—the man the Warren Commission says acted alone in Kennedy's murder—and the late David W. Ferrie to plot the President's death.

OSWALD WAS SHOT to death by Ruby in the Dallas Police Headquarters two days after the assassination of Kennedy. The Warren Commission said it could find no prior connection between the two.

Ferrie, a onetime airline pilot, died at his home here Feb. 22—five days after Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy murder became public.

Garrison was able to obtain Oswald's notebook because it is reproduced in Volume XVI of the Warren Commission report.