

Shaw Asks 32 Hearing Witnesses

Attorneys for accused presidential assassination conspirator Clay L. Shaw today asked Criminal District Court to subpoena 32 witnesses for a Monday hearing in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation.

The hearing will launch pre-trial courtroom skirmishing between Garrison and the Shaw defense.

Today's surprise move found the defense asking the clerk of court to call a wide assortment of witnesses, including Garrison and members of his legal and investigative staff.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. called the hearing after the state, replying to earlier defense motions, charged that Shaw met in Baton Rouge with Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald to plot Kennedy's murder.

Ruby, now dead of cancer, shot Oswald in the Dallas police station two days after Kennedy's slaying. The Warren Commission placed the sole blame for the President's killing on Oswald.

Among witnesses the defense wants called are three key members of Truth and Consequences, all of the members of the Orleans Jury Commission, the foreman and all members of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

THE DEFENSE also requested subpoenas for Asst. DA James Alcock, who has been Garrison's chief legal assistant in the case; the DA's chief investigator, Louis Ivon, and two other Garrison investigators.

Truth and Consequences leaders called by the defense are oilman Joseph M. Rault Jr., automobile executive Willard E. Robertson and Cecil M. Shilstone.

The trio of businessmen organized the group to help finance Garrison's investigation after the DA complained that public recording of investigative expenses was hampering the probe.

Grand Jury Foreman Albert V. LaBiche and the other 11 members of the grand jury which indicted Shaw appeared

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So did the names of all eight judges of Criminal District Court.

The defense offered no explanation for the requests. The Monday hearing opens at 10 a. m., and the principal arguments will bear on a defense motion to quash the indictment which charges Shaw conspired to kill Kennedy.

Meanwhile, an attorney for Gordon Novel today took action in U.S. District Court to block the taking of his client's testimony here in connection with his multimillion-dollar damage suit against Garrison and members of Truth and Consequences.

Steven R. Plotkin, attorney for the 29-year-old fugitive witness, asked Federal Dist. Judge James A. Comiskey to quash a motion by Garrison's lawyer seeking to take Novel's deposition in New Orleans Friday.

GARRISON'S attorney, Malcolm W. Monroe, gave notice last week of his intention to take the deposition from Novel.

As an alternate, Plotkin asked the federal court to order that the deposition be taken in Columbus, Ohio, where Novel is fighting extradition, or at some other designated place.

If Novel is forced to appear in New Orleans, he would be subject to arrest and jailing on criminal charges as well as a material witness in Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation, Plotkin declared.

Plotkin contends Novel is now under the jurisdiction of the courts of Ohio in connection with extradition proceedings and cannot receive permission to leave that jurisdiction.

Novel's lawyer also claimed it would be burdensome and expensive for him to return here when the defendants in

the suit can file written interrogatories in the case.

NOVEL'S final alternative request is that if he is forced to return to New Orleans, he be granted immunity from arrest by the state.

Garrison has said Novel is an important witness in his investigation of Kennedy's assassination. He has filed a material witness warrant, seeking the onetime bar owner's return.

Novel was arrested April 1 at Gahanna, a suburb of Columbus, under a Garrison warrant charging he conspired to burglarize a munitions dump at Houma in 1961. He is free on \$10,000 bond.

Last week he filed suit against Garrison and the private organization which is helping the DA finance his Kennedy investigation.

The suit seeks \$10 million from Garrison and \$1 million each from the 50 businessmen who comprise the Truth and Consequences organization.

Garrison's lawyer countered by asking the federal court to order Novel here for questioning.