

Jury Selection Starts in Shaw JFK Plot Trial

NEW ORLEANS — (UPI) — Clay Shaw, getting his day in court nearly two years after being arrested, sat impassive today as attorneys started selecting a jury to try him on charges of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy.

It started slowly and was expected to take a long time.

The first juror — ironically named John Kennedy — was rejected because he had formed an opinion about the case and the trial was recessed for lunch before a decision had been made about a second.

The state seemed on the point of accepting the second venireman, however, who said he felt the government should turn over to District Attorney, Jim Garrison the evidence Garrison wants about the Kennedy autopsy.

ACCUSER CALLED

Shaw did not even turn his head when his principal accuser and the state's star witness, Perry Raymond Russo, 27, answered the roll call of witnesses before the jury selection began.

The trial of the 55 year old Shaw got under way before Judge Edward Haggerty Jr. nearly two years after the announcement by Garrison that he and his staff had "solved" the 1963 Kennedy assassination.

Picking the jury was expected to last at least five weeks.

Fifty-two sheriff's deputies were on duty at various entrances and in the corridors of the huge Orleans Parish criminal courts building.

RE-ARRAIGNED

A legal technicality required the rearraignment of Shaw before jury picking began. He has stoutly maintained his innocence.

Free on \$10,000 bond, Shaw, a bachelor, has lived quietly in his apartment since his arrest in 1967.

Garrison stayed in his office down the hall from the trial room. Assistant District Attorney James Alcock, 35, was the main prosecutor.

F. Rivin Dymond, the chief defense attorney, took the opportunity of a hearing on a staff motion yesterday to file an answering motion pointing out that "the actual assassination" of Kennedy "is not even alleged" in the State's formal charge. The indictment charges Shaw "conspired (in September, 1963) with David William Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald and others" to kill Kennedy.

RUBY NAMED

The indictment was returned March 22, 1967, and when the defense asked a bill of particulars detailing the

"others," the reply came in June that "it is the position of the state that the defendant also conspired with Jack Ruby."

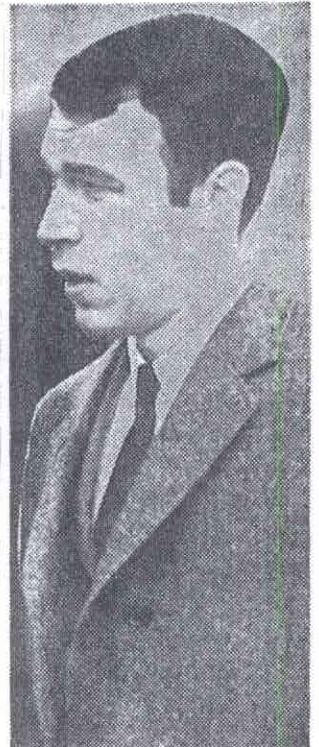
All the alleged conspirators but Shaw are dead. Ferrie, 49, a former airline pilot with a record of an arrest on a homosexuality charge, was found dead in his New Orleans apartment Feb. 22, 1967, four days after Garrison had first announced his probe was underway.

It was at a party in that apartment, Russo testified at a preliminary hearing, that Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald discussed plans for the assassination.



CLAY SHAW
Court date

—UPI Photo



PERRY RUSSO
The star witness

—AP Photo