

Clay Shaw on Trial for Assassination Conspiracy

New Orleans

Clay L. Shaw, a 55-year-old retired businessman, went on trial yesterday for conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

The trial opened with a legal hassle between the prosecution and defense over which had the right to question prospective jurors first.

Jury selection is expected to take several days. It will be selected from 160 veniremen.

The names of all prospective jurors were placed in a box and it was decided that the jury candidates should be questioned in the order that their names were selected at random from the box.

OPINION

The name of the first prospective juror was John Kennedy.

He was excused because he said he had formed an opinion about the case.

Kennedy's name was selected after criminal district court judge Edward A. Haggerty settled the dispute over questioning of jurors by ruling that the prosecution should question them first.

Shaw, white-haired and dignified, sat impassively at the defense table and smoked cigarettes.

As he entered the tightly guarded courtroom he said "hello" to reporters.

Shaw, free on \$10,000 bail since his arrest March 1, 1967, has steadfastly maintained his innocence. If convicted he faces one to 20 years in prison.

MARINA

Prior to the opening of the trial, defense layers F. Irving Dymond and William and Edward Wegmann said they would call as a witness Marina Oswald Porter, the widow of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Warren Commission, appointed by former President Johnson to investigate the assassination, concluded that Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison has contended that Kennedy was fatally wounded by bullets fired from two different directions, implying that more than one person was involved in firing the shots. He claims that one of the shots entered Kennedy's head from the front.

ALIAS

Garrison has charged that Shaw used the alias "Clay Bertrand" in conspiring with Oswald and David W. Ferrie, a former airline pilot, to murder Kennedy. Alleged meetings between the three took place in Ferrie's New Orleans flat.

Ferrie was found dead in his flat shortly after the newspapers broke the story of Garrison's investigation.

During the afternoon session, Garrison's chief assistant James L. Alcock said the



AP Wirephoto

CLAY SHAW
A smile on arrival

prosecution would attempt to prove several allegations. They assert:

- That a meeting took place between Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie at the latter's New Orleans apartment in September, 1963, about three months before Kennedy was slain.

- The three discussed at the weapons to be used, particularly the selection of high-powered rifles and simultaneous crossfire.

- Shaw met with Oswald and Jack Ruby in a Baton Rouge, La., motel and money was exchanged.

Reuters