

Shaw Freed From 2-Year 'Nightmare'

NEW ORLEANS — (UPI) — Clay Shaw, freed from what he called a "horrifying nightmare-like experience," said yesterday District Attorney Jim Garrison used him as a pawn for two years as a means to attack the Warren Commission report.

The 12-man jury declared Shaw, 55, not guilty early yesterday of charges of plotting the death of President Kennedy. The trial lasted 34 days; the jury deliberated 54 minutes.

Shaw said his arrest two years ago and his long trial had ruined him financially and would force him to end retirement and look for work.

He was formerly director of the International Trade Mart in New Orleans.

Lawsuits

Shaw and his attorneys hinted at lawsuits against some persons who brought the assassination charge against him.

"This is by no means the end of the matter," Shaw said.

Edward Wegmann, one of Shaw's attorneys, when asked about possible suits, said "we have it under consideration."

Shaw said he "feels wonderful, of course, but this was not unexpected."

"Two years ago today I was arrested. Two years ago tomorrow I said I would be vindicated," he said.

CHARGES

Shaw said his case proved the district attorney has an awesome amount of power which can be at times abused. He said he wondered many times how a person

with fewer friends and less money would be able to fight such a charge.

"The thought of this was rarely absent from my mind," Shaw said.

Garrison had charged Shaw with conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and David Ferrie to assassinate President Kennedy.

Shaw said he had to agree with Garrison's warnings about the danger of extreme power. The district attorney, in his closing statement to the jury late Friday, accused the government of using its power to cover up the truth about the Kennedy assassination.

"Much of what he said is quite true, but justice has not just happened," Shaw said. "He (Garrison) mixed up the cast of characters."

Concerned

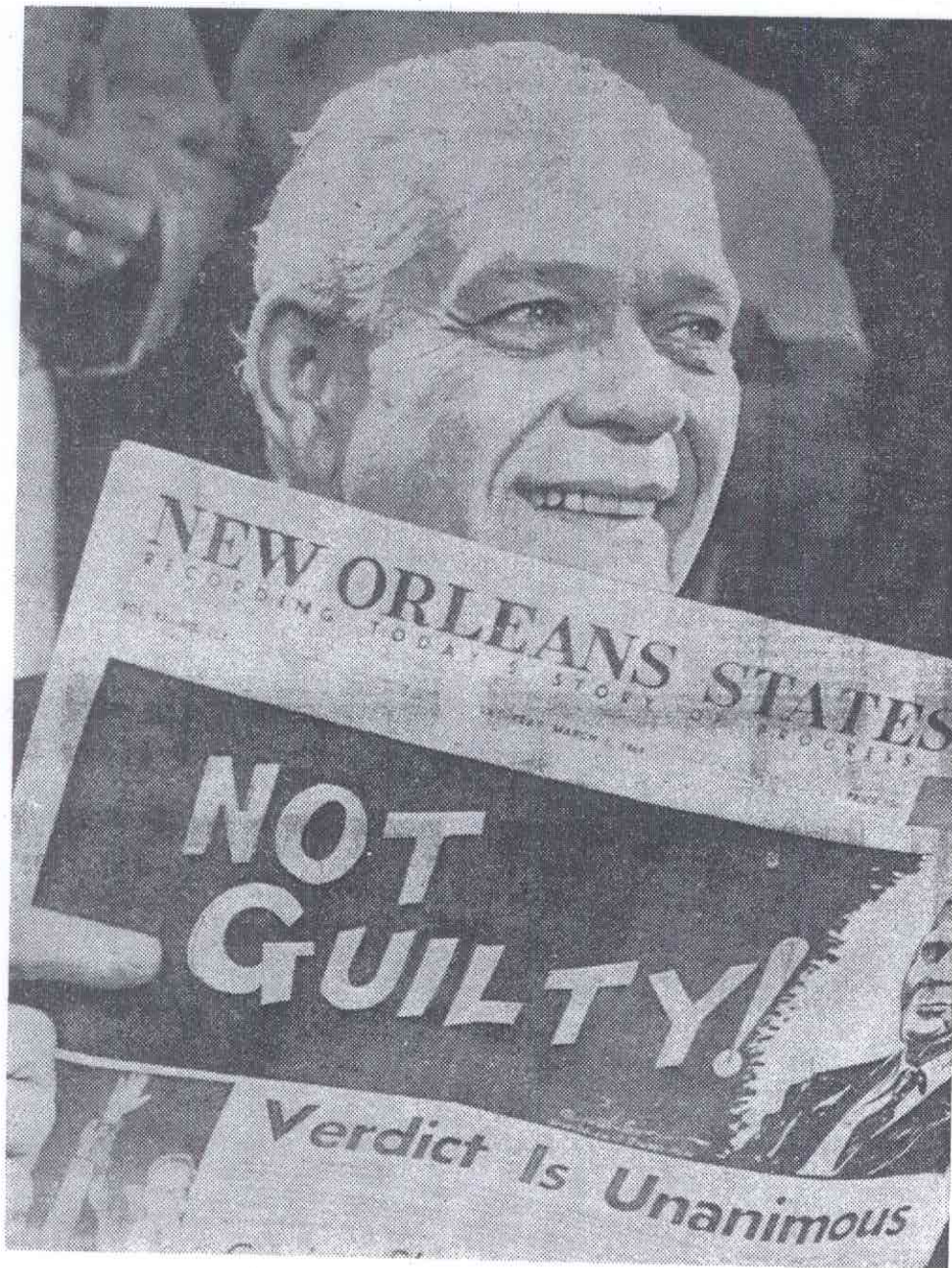
He also expressed concern about a group of New Orleans businessmen who contributed to the prosecution's financial fund. Shaw said this added to the imbalance of power between the prosecution and the defense.

Shaw said he still agrees with the Warren Commission report in general, but added there are "bound to be some loose ends" in such a huge undertaking.

Shaw said he intended to do some writing, "quite possibly" based on his experiences.

"I'm just going to go back and try to pick up the strings of my life," Shaw said.

He said he was confident of acquittal through his two-year ordeal but admitted to some anxious moments.



Broke, But Happy

Clay L. Shaw beamed over a headline which proclaimed his acquittal yesterday in New Orleans on charges of plotting the assassination of President Kennedy. The 12-man jury decided in 54 minutes that evidence produced in

34 days of trial had no merit. Though happy, Shaw said his defense ruined him financially and he would be forced to end retirement, go back to work. (Story on Page A-6)

—AP Wirephoto