

More Newspapers Editorialize on the Shaw Trial

(Editor's Note: Since publication of a roundup of editorial comment on the Clay Shaw conspiracy trial on Saturday, the volume of such editorials has grown. More are presented today.)

The Louisville Courier-Journal

District Attorney Jim Garrison's case against Clay Shaw turned out to be no case at all. If a prosecutor can sully a man's reputation, willynilly, and get away with it, our system of criminal justice is dangerously flawed.

If a prosecutor can all but ruin a man financially with no more evidence than Mr. Garrison presented, no one is safe from the depredations of an irresponsible district attorney.

There is a chance, however, that Mr. Garrison will not get away with it. The president of the American Bar Association has called for an investigation, and he wants the Louisiana Bar Association to consider disciplinary action against Mr. Garrison.

The Kansas City Star

The entire business (Shaw trial) has been odd in the extreme, and we believe it is the obligation of the legal profession to look into the matter very closely in the interests of its own health.

Whenever a court becomes a circus, the principal victims are the people who rely on the American system of justice.

The Charlotte Observer

The exoneration of Clay Shaw takes care of District Attorney Jim Garrison's claim that he "solved the assassination" of President John F. Kennedy two years ago.

After all of Garrison's claims over the last two years, the biggest issue in his case against Shaw was whether the trial judge

should let it go to a jury. The evidence was that weak.

There is no point in belaboring Garrison at long range for this fiasco. The members of the bar and the public he represents can handle him.

The Baltimore Sun

The president of the American Bar Association described the trial of Clay Shaw in New Orleans as a charade, and said he would ask the Louisiana Bar Association to consider disciplinary action against Jim

Garrison, the district attorney who directed the prosecution.

A New Orleans newspaper, the States-Item, published an editorial saying that Garrison has shown himself unfit to hold the office of district attorney and should be brought into court to answer for his conduct. "He has perverted the law rather than prosecuted it," said the editorial.

These are harsh words, but Mr. Garrison deserves them fully on the basis of his actions during the two years from the time the charges

were made until the trial's end last week.

Garrison has much to answer for, and it would be appropriate for his fellow lawyers to take the lead in questioning his actions.

The Milwaukee Journal

Two years ago District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans charged Clay Shaw with conspiring to murder President John F. Kennedy. Garrison spent those two years as prosecutor, public relations man and judge in what he flamboyantly called "the case of a century." It took a jury 54 minutes to call it, in effect, a farce.

The cry in New Orleans is for Garrison's resignation. Certainly it is justified in view of the district attorney's perversion of the law. Furthermore, the American Bar Association should look into this disgraceful affair.

San Francisco Chronicle

Our sense of propriety has been put to severe test in recent weeks while awaiting

the end of the dangerous, disgraceful and demeaning proceedings, conducted under mask of law, in the Orleans Parish courtroom in the otherwise sensible and sophisticated city of New Orleans. District Attorney Jim Garrison has now had his hand called by a panel of steady-minded jurors.

Garrison's misuse of great power was supported by financial backers of substantial means in New Orleans. It is still incredible that no one in authority in the entire state of Louisiana had the nerve to cry halt.

The Miami Herald

District Attorney Jim Garrison is deservedly branded now as a public official who used his office to fabricate a case against an innocent man.

It was not the government that murdered truth, as Mr. Garrison insisted in his summary. The blame belongs to the fantasy that the district attorney permitted to bloom in his own brain.