

Garrison Reflects On Shaw Decision

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NEW ORLEANS (UPI)— Jim Garrison, the flamboyant district attorney who claimed he "solved" the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, says he lost the Clay L. Shaw case because he was forced to present a modern "James Bond novel" type conspiracy in a trial bound by old time rules.

Garrison, sitting relaxed with pipe in hand, made his first public appearance since the Shaw trial Thursday night in an exclusive WVUE-TV interview. Garrison said he left the courtroom even before the jury reached its verdict of innocent because he did not intend to make any public statements no matter what the jury decided.

It took the jury less than an hour to find Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman, innocent of charges that he conspired to murder Kennedy.

Garrison said the prosecution lost the case for two reasons:

—"A bad tactical decision which I made."

—"The tremendous difficulty of presenting a domestic espionage operation in an Anglo-Saxon courtroom."

The district attorney said his "tactical" error was when he decided not to put any witnesses on the stand who had been in trouble before. He indicated that the witnesses not called for the Shaw conspiracy trial would be called in Shaw's perjury trial.

Garrison has charged that Shaw lied under oath when he denied knowing either David W. Ferrie or Lee Harvey Oswald, two alleged conspirators in a New Orleans plot to kill Kennedy. At least 10 witnesses testified at the trial that they saw Shaw with either Oswald or Ferrie in 1963.

Garrison admitted, however, that had he been sitting on the Shaw jury "I would have had a great deal to debate

about" Shaw's guilt or innocence.

Garrison reiterated his latest theory on the motive in Kennedy's death. He said the President was shot to death "because the cold war was being brought to an end."

The cold war was worth some \$79 billion a year and some forces, primarily the Central Intelligence Agency, wanted Kennedy killed to preserve it, Garrison theorized, looking straight into the camera.

He has also espoused theories that anti-Castro Cubans, the para-military right and the military-industrial establishment, engineered Kennedy's death.

"Were I the jury I would have been concerned about the lack of motive," Garrison said. He referred to the assassination as "a coup de etat that originated in Washington."

Garrison said there were "certain indications" the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King was perpetrated by the same "mode of operation" but that he would not launch an investigation into King's death unless the crime originated in Orleans parish (county).