

Kennedy Plot

New Orleans Businessman Is Accused

Associated Press

New Orleans

The retired director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart, Clay Shaw, was arrested by District Attorney Jim Garrison yesterday and accused of taking part "in a conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy."

No immediate charge was filed.

"There will be more arrests," the 6 foot, 6 inch district attorney told newsmen. "I have no doubt about the case, as I have said before. The arrests will hold up. If you want to bet against me, you will lose."

BAIL

Garrison said Shaw, 54, an Army major during World War II, had not made a statement. He said Shaw had been questioned previously. Garrison recommended bond of \$25,000.

William Gurvich, chief investigator, said Shaw "will be charged with participating in a conspiracy to murder John F. Kennedy" — but he couldn't say when the formal charge would be filed.

It was announced that Shaw would remain in jail overnight.

"Special cases take special handling," said Gurvich at a tumultuous news conference in the echoing marble corridor outside Garrison's offices. "For all I know it would be several days."

ARREST

Shaw, a handsome well-dressed six-footer with silver hair, was subpoenaed to appear at the district attorney's office. He arrived at 12:15 p.m. and was placed under arrest five and a half hours later.

It was the first arrest in Garrison's 5-month-old investigation, which he said will



LPI Telephoto

CLAY SHAW
No statement

privy that a conspiracy born in New Orleans "culminated in the assassination of President Kennedy" in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

Garrison's probe has aroused international interest. His claim of conspiracy

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goes counter to the Warren Commission's official report that Lee Harvey Oswald fired the bullets that killed Kennedy and wounded Texas Governor John Connally — and that there was no credible evidence any one else was involved.

STATEMENT

In announcing Garrison's latest move, Gurvich read a brief statement to newsmen:

"The first arrest has been made in the investigation of the New Orleans District Attorney's office into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy," he said.

"It should be pointed out," he added, "that the nature of this case is not conducive to an immediate succession of arrests at this time. However, other arrests will be made at a later date."

Shaw's name apparently does not appear in the summary of the Warren Commission's report. He is not listed as a witness.

Garrison said Shaw had a lawyer with him during the long afternoon of interrogation. He said Shaw would be booked on the authority of the District Attorney.

Shaw was subpoenaed to appear at the District Attorney's office in the morning. On arrival, he walked quickly through the reception room, past newsmen, saying he was "not speaking to anyone."

Shaw lives on Dauphine street in the French Quarter, a tourist stamping ground here. For 18 years he was managing director of New Orleans' International Trade Mart.

TRADE

The mart is a privately supported, non-profit organization formed to promote trade through the port of New Orleans. Shaw retired Oct. 1, 1965.

At a ceremony marking his retirement, Shaw was presented a plaque and the International Order of Merit of the city of New Orleans medal.

During World War II he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre and the United States Legion of Merit and Bronze Star. He also is a chevalier of the Order of the Crown of Belgium and, while he was director of the Trade Mart, France gave him the distinction of "Chevalier de L'Ordre du Merite Commercial."

LEAFLETS

Oswald, a former New Orleans resident, showed up on several occasions in front of the old Trade Mart Building — now an office building — hand out propaganda leaflets.

At the time, the summer of 1963, Oswald was working with a group he called "Fair Play for Cuba," a pro-Castro organization.

In an interview last week, Shaw said he once saw Oswald distributing the leaflets but never met or spoke to him.

Earlier yesterday, an ex-air force pilot underwent questioning in Garrison's office after being subpoenaed. He was not held.

QUESTIONS

James R. Lewallen, 38, an employee of the Boeing Co., also underwent questioning after being subpoenaed. A Baton Rouge salesman, Perry Raymond Russo, 25, appeared voluntarily to pass on information he claims to have about the assassination.

Lewallen's attorney, George Piazza II, told reporters that his client once roomed with David W. Ferrie, 48, a free-lance pilot described by Garrison as a participant in the alleged conspiracy to kill the President.

Ferrie was found dead in bed February 22. The coroner ruled death resulted from natural causes. Garrison maintains Ferrie committed suicide while under investigation.

At one time Ferrie and Lewallen had both been Eastern Air Line pilots.

Lewallen, who is single, has been employed as an inspector at Boeing's Michoud missile facility here since 1961. Company records showed he has a security clearance for confidential work.