

Oakland Tribune
3 March 1967

Man Accused of JFK Plot in S.F. Day of Assassination

Clay Shaw, the New Orleans businessman accused of taking part in a conspiracy to assassinate the late President John F. Kennedy, was in San Francisco the day Kennedy was shot.

J. Monroe Sullivan, then executive director of the San Francisco World Trade Center and now an assistant to Port of Oakland Executive Director Ben Nutter, said Shaw attended a San Francisco luncheon the day of the shooting, Nov. 22, 1963.

Shaw, then managing director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart, had written Sullivan saying he would be in the Bay Area a couple of days and asking him to arrange a luncheon where he could inform local businessmen about plans for a skyscraper at the New Orleans mart.

"We heard before the lunch that the President had been shot," Sullivan said. "I acted as master of ceremonies and asked everyone to rise for a moment of silent prayer."

Sullivan recalled that Shaw's reaction to the news seemed "normal for the occasion," and that he appeared to be as "shocked and distressed as I was."

He said there was a short meeting at which Shaw explained details of the skyscraper to about 14 businessmen, then the meeting broke up.

Sullivan said he has not seen Shaw since then, but that he received a letter from him Dec. 12, 1963, in which Shaw thanked him for the reception he received in view of "the tragic circumstances surrounding the meeting."

Sullivan said he was not with Shaw at the time of the assassination, but met him at the luncheon in the Ferry Building a short time later.

"We spent most of the afternoon of the 22nd together at the World Trade Center comparing our trade centers and discussing their functions and financing," he added.

Sullivan said that at Shaw's request, he made room reservations for him at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco from Nov. 21 to Nov. 24.

Sullivan said he enjoyed Shaw's company very much, and that he was surprised to read of his arrest by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison.