

D.A. Garrison Not in Office

Either Taking a Day Off Or Huddling on Quiz

NEW ORLEANS, March 4 (UPI)—Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison closed his office Saturday either to take a well-earned day off or to huddle with investigators on whether he wants to bare his case on a plot to assassinate John F. Kennedy.

A preliminary hearing on the arrest of prominent civic leader Clay Shaw is scheduled March 14, and Garrison may have to reveal much of his case there.

Garrison accused Shaw

of plotting the murder of Kennedy, in conspiracy with accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and others.

At the March 14 hearing, Garrison would have to produce enough evidence to convince a judge that Shaw should be brought to trial.

SAY TIME SOUGHT

Informed observers at the court house said Garrison is playing for time. They said he asked for the hearing last week so he would have at least two weeks to gather information.

Legal sources told United Press International Saturday Garrison has several alternatives if he decides not to expose his case and his witnesses at a hearing.

He could ask for a continuance of the hearing, which would give him

more time to build his case. He could file a bill of information — a formal charge — and this could contain information vague enough to protect secrecy.

If Garrison filed a bill of information, Shaw's lawyers could request a bill of particulars — more detailed information on the charges — contending the charge was vague and hampered them in preparing a defense.

WOULD BE UP TO JUDGE

It would be up to a judge to decide how many more facts Garrison would have to produce.

Shaw's chief counsel, Edward Wegmann, denied Friday a published report that he was considering an attempt to take the case out of Garrison's jurisdiction by moving it into Federal court. He said he had "no such plans."

Garrison said Shaw met with Oswald and David W. Ferrie in Ferrie's apartment in September, 1963, and "at these meetings there was an agreement and conclusion . . . to kill John F. Kennedy."

Ferrie, 49, an airline pilot, was found dead in his apartment Feb. 22.

Garrison has subpoenaed three other persons in addition to Shaw, but has charged no one else.

The other three are James Lewallen, a former roommate of Ferrie; Dante Marochini, whose wife said he knew Lewallen, and Dean A. Andrews, who said Oswald came to him for legal advice prior to the assassination.