

Shaw Indicted in 'Plot' to Assassinate Kennedy

New Orleans District Attorney Changes Tactics to Conceal Evidence Until Trial

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, changing his tactics, Wednesday obtained a grand jury indictment of Clay L. Shaw on a charge of "wilfully and unlawfully conspiring" to murder President John F. Kennedy.

The surprise indictment came a few hours after Dean Adams Andrews Jr., an attorney who says Lee Harvey Oswald consulted him in 1963 on legal matters, pleaded innocent to a charge of committing perjury before the grand jury.

Garrison had previously indicated he would bypass the grand jury and file a bill of information to bring Shaw, 54, a New Orleans civic leader, to trial.

'Sufficient Evidence'

Three state judges ruled last Friday at the conclusion of a four-day preliminary hearing that Garrison had produced "sufficient evidence" to warrant holding Shaw for trial.

With an indictment, Garrison can keep the information not brought out at the preliminary hearing secret until an actual trial is held.

By filing a bill of indictment, the district attorney would have had to divulge specific details of his case.

The grand jury's true bill charged Shaw with "wilfully and unlawfully conspiring with David W. Ferrie, Lee Harvey Oswald and unnamed others to murder John F. Kennedy."

The indictment came after Perry Raymond Russo, 25, a Baton Rouge insurance salesman who was a key witness in the preliminary hearing, made a surprise appearance before the grand jury.

Only Witness

Grand jury foreman Albert V. Labiche, a prominent businessman here,

said afterward that Russo was the only witness the jury heard Wednesday in connection with the Kennedy assassination.

Russo spent 1 hour and 50 minutes with the grand jury.

Emerging between two of Garrison's assistants, Russo told newsmen:

"I can't talk right now."

Russo told the three-judge court he heard Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald plotting to kill Mr. Kennedy. Ferrie, a freelance pilot with a homosexual record, was found dead in bed Feb. 22 of natural causes.

The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald was the assassin and acted alone.

The indictment capped another hectic day in the criminal district courts building where earlier Andrews had been arraigned for perjury and Shaw's attorney had won permission for his client to leave the court's jurisdiction to vacation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast during the Easter holidays.

Andrews, 44, suspended last week as an assistant district attorney in suburban Jefferson Parish, asked for a jury trial on the prejury charge. His attorneys were given until April 10 to file motions in the case.

The grand jury indicted Andrews last Thursday, saying he gave answers that he "well knew were false and untrue" when questioned about the conspiracy probe.

In testimony before the Warren Commission, Andrews said that, after the Kennedy assassination, a "Clay Bertrand" contacted him by phone and asked him to go to Dallas to represent Oswald.

Russo said Shaw was

introduced to him in Ferrie's apartment as "Clem Bertrand" and Garrison has charged that Shaw used "Clay Bertrand" as an alias. Shaw has denied all of Garrison's accusations. The FBI could locate no one by the name of Bertrand.

Russo's appearance before the grand jury followed disclosure that a witness subpoenaed to appear Wednesday, Gordon Novel, 29, was out of town.

Novel's attorney, Steven R. Plotkin, said his client left town Saturday and will return "in due course." Plotkin said he was absent "for personal reasons."

Novel appeared before the grand jury last Thursday and was told to return Wednesday.

The motion for Shaw to leave town for the week-end stipulated he would go to the Gulf Coast today and return Monday. Shaw has been in a hospital here since Saturday for treatment of fatigue and a back ailment. He was released Wednesday night.

18 MAR

16 MAR
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