

AN AFFABLE SHAW MEETS THE PRESS

Host at Cocktail Party, He Talks of Many Things

By GENE ROBERTS

Special to The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS, April 4—Clay L. Shaw, the man accused by the District Attorney's office of having conspired to kill President Kennedy, described himself as an "old-fashioned liberal of the Wilson-Franklin Roosevelt persuasion."

He chatted about his political views and his penchant for writing plays and restoring old homes at a news conference that turned out to be a reception for local and out-of-town newsmen.

Reporters and cameramen arrived at the home of Edward Wegmann, one of Mr. Shaw's attorneys, to find a bartender dispensing drinks and Mr. Shaw presiding over bowls of avocado dip, tacos and salted peanuts.

"God willing, I'm looking forward to the trial," said Mr. Shaw, who is scheduled to be arraigned formally tomorrow on conspiracy charges. "I expect to win—that is, I expect to be proved innocent."

A court order prevented Mr. Shaw from saying anything more about his trial. But he was an affable host and moved from reporter to reporter with a martini on-the-rocks in his hand.

Cocktail Parties Recalled

The news conference, New Orleans reporters said, was not unlike the frequent cocktail parties that Mr. Shaw used to give when he was the director of the International Trade Mart here.

Looking relaxed and healthy in his Ivy League suit and smoking continuously, the 6-foot, 4-inch Mr. Shaw explained that he had called the conference "because of repeated requests for photographs and background information."

He thinks Thornton Wilder is the greatest living American playwright, and said he was working on a play of his own that would be based on the life of Antonio de Ulloa, the first Spanish Governor of Louisiana.

Three of his earlier plays have been published, and one—a one-act drama called "Submerged"—is produced frequently by amateur groups, he said. But he is dreaming of professional acclaim with his newest effort.

He said that in the nineteen-thirties he once served as business manager of a New York theater group called the Actors Repertory Theater. But he set his theatrical interests aside during World War II, when he served in Europe, rose to major and won the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit, and for 19 years after the war when he was directing the Trade Mart.



Associated Press Wirephoto

A WORD FOR REPORTERS: Clay L. Shaw, left, accused of conspiring to kill President Kennedy, at news conference held in New Orleans. Seated next to him is F. Irvin Dymond, one of the attorneys defending him on the charge.

Kennedy's Program Praise

After guiding the construction of the new \$14-million Trade Mart Building here, he retired from the organization in 1965 in order to devote full time to playwriting. He is 54 years old.

His retirement was made possible, he said, by a profitable hobby—buying old homes in New Orleans' French Quarter and restoring them. He bought and sold about 16—including a one-time home of John James Audubon, the naturalist—and was beginning to settle down to his playwriting when he was accused by District Attorney Jim Garrison of having participated in a conspiracy with Lee Harvey Oswald to will President Kennedy.

Last night, Mr. Shaw said that, far from disliking President Kennedy, he thought the President's Alliance for Progress and Peace Corps programs were the greatest things to happen to Latin American-United States relations since the Good Neighbor Policy.

"Only through a modification of the capitalistic system, such as that begun by President Wilson and accelerated by Presidents Roosevelt and Kennedy, can the greatest good be brought to the greatest number of people in the world," he said.

He believes, he said, that China poses a threat to world peace but thinks the United States is reaching a "modus vivendi" with Russia and hopes that the American people "have the wisdom to cope with it."

Then, Mr. Shaw chatted about his deep roots in Louisiana. His

grandfather, who was also named Clay Shaw, was sheriff of Tangipahoa Parish. He was the inspiration for a key character in a novel that Hodding Carter, the Pulitzer Prize-winning Mississippi editor, is currently writing.

Novel Freed on Bail

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 4 (AP) — Gordon Novel walked out of jail today on \$10,000 bond and cast fresh mystery on his role in the New Orleans investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Novel and his Columbus lawyer, Jerry Weiner, said they would fight to prevent Mr. Novel's return to New Orleans, where he is charged with conspiring to commit burglary of a munitions plant. A warrant has also been issued for him as a witness in the assassination case.

Mr. Novel said that he had worked for District Attorney Jim Garrison as chief of his security section.

"He knows... ask him," he said. "My code name was Alexander, and electronics was my field."

At one point, referring to the munitions burglary, he said, "You will see that it was the most patriotic burglary in history." At another point, he responded to a question about the burglary charge: "I don't know anything about any munitions plant."

'Fabrication' Charged

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 4 (UPI)—Mr. Novel said of Mr.

Garrison's assassination inquiry: "I'm going to prove the investigation is a complete fabrication. I'm going to blow the case wide open."

New Evidence Reported

MEXICO CITY, April 4 (AP) — Joseph M. Rault Jr., New Orleans oil man, said the Federal Bureau of Investigation has new evidence on the assassination of President Kennedy. He told a news conference that Attorney General Ramsey Clark had hampered the conspiracy investigation being conducted by Mr. Garrison.