

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
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NEW ORLEANS 70119



W. F. GARRISON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

June 16, 1967

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POST OFFICE

Mr. Rosel H. Hyde, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission

RE: Complaint Against the National Broadcasting Company

Gentlemen:

I wish to make a formal complaint against the National Broadcasting Company for its activities interfering with the prosecution of an open case now pending and soon to be tried in the Criminal District Court of Orleans Parish in the State of Louisiana. The case with which this agency is interfering is entitled State of Louisiana versus Clay Shaw, the defendant therein being charged with participation in the conspiracy to assassinate John F. Kennedy.

The actions of the National Broadcasting Company, through its employees and agents, have been so aggressive in attacking the State of Louisiana's case prior to trial as to have gone far beyond the pretense of merely gathering and disseminating news. To the contrary, the news function of this agency has been used as a guise and a cover for conduct plainly intended to affect the course and outcome of the trial. The actions of this network have been so predictably injurious to the cause of the prosecution as to leave no alternative to the conclusion that the sabotage and destruction of the case of the State of Louisiana against the defendant has been the calculated objective of the agents and employees of this network.

The purpose of this letter is to present to the Commission a summary of these activities so as to call to your attention the curious intervention on the part of this network with regard to a pending law case in which it is not a proper

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7. The National Broadcasting Company, under the active supervision of Mr. Sheridan, has attempted to buy copies of evidence which might be used by the prosecution in the trial of the case. In one instance, according to information obtained by this office, a large sum of money was paid by the National Broadcasting Company to a potential witness for a copy of a photograph obtained by the prosecution.
8. During the course of the aforescribed unethical and fraudulent activities by the National Broadcasting Company, its agents and employees have worked in concert with representatives of the defendant. The relationship of the National Broadcasting Company and the defense has been sufficiently close that in recent weeks a member of the defendant's legal staff has been known to state that when the National Broadcasting Company gets finished with its presentation over national television, the prosecution's case will be thoroughly destroyed.

Ordinarily, the effort to discredit the prosecution's case is a function of the defense. This is the first time, to my knowledge, that a national television network has actively sought to torpedo a pending law case prior to trial.

It should be noted that in the course of its efforts to obstruct justice, the National Broadcasting Company has been actively aided by its New Orleans associate, WDSU-TV. The participation of WDSU-TV included harassment of potential prosecution witnesses by at least one member of its staff, biased presentation of the issues involved in presenting its "news" programs and "editorials", plainly intended to discredit the prosecution in this case, and the dispersal of funds to attorneys and other individuals participating in the effort to damage the state's case prior to trial. It should be added that the last-described endeavor has been accomplished not by members of the station itself, but by an attorney closely connected with the station who has previously been known to disperse funds in the New Orleans area in behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The deleterious effect of such undue pressures on the prosecution's witnesses predictably has been quite notable.

~~STANLEY~~
STEPHEN
LEEMAN