

Assassination Prober

New Orleans DA in City

New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison today acknowledged his present visit to San Francisco is not entirely a social occasion.

Speaking with reluctance from the Telegraph Hill penthouse of Attorney Melvin Belli, Garrison initially said he was here solely to visit with Belli and F. Lee Bailey, the lawyer who successfully defended Dr. Sam Sheppard at his second trial.

Under prodding, however, Garrison said he still is vitally interested in the circumstances under which Clay Shaw attended a luncheon here on the day President Kennedy was assassinated. Shaw is under indictment in New Orleans as a key figure in what Garrison has termed

a conspiracy on Kennedy's life.

"As a prosecutor I must go on the assumption Shaw is innocent until proven guilty," Garrison said. "Consequently, I can not discuss him or the evidence against him at this time."

Garrison said he recently had read "Where Death Delights" by Marshall Houts, a biography of Dr. Milton H. Helpert, chief medical examiner for New York City.

"Dr. Helpert is the foremost authority on forensic medicine," Garrison said. "You can't take issue with him."

"Some of the questions he raises regarding the Kennedy autopsy and the Warren Commission report can not

be ignored, particularly the fact that the autopsy surgeons who performed the autopsy were denied access to X-rays and pictures that had been taken and were suppressed."

Garrison said he would be returning to San Francisco later in the fall. He expects to leave for New Orleans tomorrow.

Belli, when asked if he was being associated with Garrison in the assassination probe, said such was not the case nor was Garrison seeking his advice.

"He hasn't convinced me, but maybe by the end of the day he will," Belli said.

"I believe the Warren Report — he doesn't."