

LA. HIGH COURT WON'T REVIEW CASE OF SHAW

Rejects Plea to Consider Venue Change Issue

The Supreme Court of Louisiana ruled Tuesday it will not review Judge Edward A. Haggerty's denial of a change of venue for the trial of Clay L. Shaw.

Shaw, arrested and charged on March 1, 1967, with having conspired to murder President Kennedy by District Attorney Jim Garrison, had asked his trial be moved out of New Orleans on the basis of prejudicial publicity.

His writs to the Supreme Court asked it to consider Judge Haggerty's April 3 refusal to reopen an evidentiary hearing held in connection with the motion for a change of venue and the judge's April 4 denial of the motion for a change of venue.

The Supreme Court decision said, "Writs denied. This court will not interfere with orderly proceedings in the trial court, in the absence of a showing of irreparable injury. Relator (Shaw) has a remedy of appeal in the event of conviction."

Shaw's petition to the Supreme Court claimed that a circus-like atmosphere has prevailed in the proceedings against him from the beginning.

During the hearing on the change of venue held by the Criminal District Court judge, the petition said, Judge Haggerty consistently ruled that for evidentiary purposes in the state's case against Shaw there was no connection between (a) the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of the President in Dallas, (b) the Warren Commission report, (c) Jim Garrison's probe of the assassination of Kennedy, and (d) the case of the State of Louisiana versus Shaw.

Shaw's petition said the trial court prohibited questions as to whether witnesses had fixed opinions on Lee Harvey Oswald, if he killed the President, and whether he acted alone or in a conspiracy.

It added that the state introduced no evidence and offered no witnesses on the trial of the motion for change of venue.