

Civic Leader Tied Into Plot

Who Is Clay Shaw?

(Second in a Series.)

By HOKE MAY

NEW ORLEANS (NEA) — Physically, 55-year-old Clay L. Shaw is perfect adversary for the tall, 44-year-old district attorney of New Orleans, Jim Garrison.

Like the man who has charged him with conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy, Shaw is six feet, four inches in height. His massive, craggy face is topped by a close-cropped thatch of white hair.

Before his retirement almost two years ago, Shaw was a respected businessman and a leader of the city's international trade community in what, after New York, is the nation's second largest seaport.

Shaw was managing director of the International Trade Mart, which promotes international commercial relations with New Orleans, especially in Latin American nations. He retired after fulfilling a dream of 16 years — the construction of a 33-story International Trade Mart Building which towers over the Mississippi River levee at the foot of world-famous Canal Street.

When Shaw was arrested by Garrison's office March 1, 1967, and accused of participating in plotting Kennedy's assassination, the city gasped. Friends of long standing rallied to Shaw, and his arrest, threw a blanket of doubt across the town — doubt which extended itself to Garrison's motives and even his sanity.

In his bill of information against Shaw, Garrison accused the Kentwood, La., native of conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald (the man named by the Warren Commission as Kennedy's lone assassin) and a peculiar, onetime airline pilot, David W. Ferrie, to carry out the killing in Dealey Plaza.

Shaw's response was immediate. As soon as he was released on bond, he held a press conference in the offices of his attorneys and long-time friends, William and Edward Wegmann. He denied ever knowing either Oswald or Ferrie and called the charge against him preposterous.

As was Oswald's, the name of David W. Ferrie was well-known to New Orleanians. The strange, hairless pilot, who lost his job with Eastern Air Lines after being accused of homosexuality, had been found dead in his apartment here Feb. 22 — five days after knowledge of the

Garrison inquiry became public and six days before Shaw was arrested.

Ferrie, who was 45, was on the verge of arrest by the DA when he died of what the coroner called a massive hemorrhage at the base of the brain and what Garrison implied was either murder or suicide.

In the light of more recent disclosures by Garrison, Ferrie's past is fascinating. During the Bay of Pigs anti-Castro invasion build-up, Ferrie worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, running guns to Miami and training irregular troops for guerrilla combat.

Part of his work for the anti-Castro Cubans consisted of flying fire bomb raids against Cuban sugar cane fields. The man who flew those raids with him, Eladio del Valle (a former member of the Batista Congress) was murdered in Miami the day Ferrie was found dead. His body was sprawled in the front seat of his Cadillac, his head cleaved open with a machete and, as if for good measure, a bullet through his heart. The murder is unsolved.

Ferrie worked during late 1960

and 1961 with a former chief of the Chicago FBI office, Guy Banister, who retired, returned to New Orleans and established a private detective agency. Garrison says he can prove Banister's office here was a front for the CIA and that, in the DA's words, Guy Banister was the "green light man" and liaison officer for all CIA operations in South and Central America. That charge becomes important in light of the main thesis of Garrison's conspiracy case.

As for Banister, he was found dead in his home here in June, 1964. The official verdict was heart failure.

In his charges against Shaw since the accusation was first hurled, Garrison has added the name of Jack Ruby (Oswald's televised assassin) to the list of people with whom he contends the trade mart director conspired. In publicly recorded answers to defense questions, Garrison said Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie met with Ruby on at least two different occasions in other parts of Louisiana.

Further, Garrison announced in official pleadings that his office had broken a code which appears in the notebooks of both Shaw and Oswald. One of the numbers decoded from both no-



tebooks, he said, was the unlisted telephone number of Jack Ruby at Dallas in 1963.

To every charge, the Shaw defense has issued a categorical denial and, in recent months, the defense has struggled with the court to have Shaw's trial removed from New Orleans to a jurisdiction at least 100 miles away.

The defense request for a change of venue has delayed any imminent trial. Shaw's lawyers accused Garrison of engaging in a "concentrated barrage of publicity" which has prejudiced their client's case in the eyes of potential New Orleans jurors.

After 68 jurors testified recently they could give Shaw a fair trial (two of them blurted

out that they thought him innocent), trial Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. disagreed with the pleadings and refused to move the site. The defense appealed to the State Supreme Court, which refused to review Haggerty's decision. However, more legal maneuvers appear imminent.

Much less is known of Edgar Eugene Bradley than of Shaw. In his late 40s, Bradley is the West Coast representative of Dr. Carl McIntyre, a superconservative evangelist whose radio attacks on communism and the federal administration are broadcast nationally under the auspices of a New Jersey-based church organization.

Bradley, too, has denied all of Garrison's charges, including the accusation that he was in Dallas the day Kennedy was

killed. Attempts by the DA to extradite Bradley for prosecution have been held up by courts at Los Angeles, where Bradley lives.

(NEXT: The Clay Bertrand Mystery.)