

## N.O. Bar Owner Sues NBC on Probe Report

A New Orleans bar-restaurant owner has filed a \$250,000 libel suit against the National Broadcasting Company, charging personal damage from a news release issued by NBC dealing with District Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe.

The suit was filed yesterday in Federal District Court by Eugene C. Davis, operator of Wanda's Bar, 704 Iberville, and Gene's Restaurant, 611 Iberville.

Davis alleges that news stories Aug. 11, 1967, based on an NBC release entitled "An Editorial-NBC Meets Its Obligation," falsely identified him as "the real Clay Bertrand."

**BERTRAND IS** a name which Garrison claims was used as an alias by Clay L. Shaw, charged by the DA with conspiring to murder the late President John F. Kennedy.

Davis says in his suit that as a result of the story he has suffered a substantial loss in his business because he allegedly was linked with the assassination and with reputed homosexuals.

Davis seeks damages of \$50,000 for alleged business losses and another \$200,000 for mental anguish and shock to his nervous system.

The suit claims that Davis was, after circulation of the story, questioned by the FBI, that he has been arrested, harassed and "repeatedly defamed publicly because of various aspects of all or part of said . . . libelous story."

**DAVIS SAYS** the matters in the news release were grossly false and circulated recklessly without any substantial investigation and were persisted in long after a real investigation would have shown them absolutely false.

His suit requests a jury trial.

The name Clay Bertrand first was mentioned in testimony to the Warren Commission by New Orleans attorney Dean Andrews, who said a man using that name called him after the assassination and asked him to go to Dallas and defend Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin.

Later, Andrews identified Davis as Bertrand. Davis denied it. Andrews was subsequently tried and convicted for perjury in connection with testimony he gave the Orleans Parish Grand Jury about the identity of Clay Bertrand.