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Wirephotos NUI and NU2 Jan. 16

NEW ORLEANS, La. AP - Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison did an about-face Monday and agreed to proceed without further delay in the trial of Clay Shaw, accused nearly two years ago of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy.

A Garrison assistant, James Alcock, told Judge Edward J. Haggerty in Criminal District Court the state would be ready to go ahead as scheduled Tuesday. The trial will be the first connected directly with the assassination Nov. 22, 1963.

Alcock withdrew a state motion for a delay based on the claim that the federal government was withholding vital evidence.

Defense Attorney F. Irvin Dymond said he and his client, a 59-year-old retired New Orleans businessman, also were ready to go to trial.

The state had asked for a continuance last Friday after a judge in Washington, D.C., declined to enforce a Garrison subpoena of Kennedy autopsy photographs and X-rays taken after the assassination in Dallas.

Alcock asserted then that if the federal government "blocks our attempts to present all of the evidence, this case cannot be brought to trial."

The autopsy reports were turned over the National Archives by the Kennedy family with the stipulation that they be withheld from the public.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark released last week a report by four experts who checked the autopsy material and agreed with the Warren Commission that President Kennedy was shot from the rear. Garrison has insisted there were other shots from the front.

Alcock declined to discuss the reason for withdrawal of the continuance motion but complained that Clark had "tried to interfere in the case with public statements."

Garrison, who arrested Shaw in March, 1967, claims the assassination conspiracy was hatched in New Orleans by a group including Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby, Dallas night club operator.

Shaw has denied all charges. The Warren Commission, which conducted the government's official investigation into the assassination, concluded there was no conspiracy.

Oswald, named by the commission as the killer, is dead - slain by Ruby at the Dallas jail. And Ruby died of cancer after his conviction and imprisonment.

Garrison claims the federal government has deliberately delayed Shaw's trial to cover up certain facts of the assassination.

"My staff and I solved the assassination weeks ago,"

Garrison said in February 1967. "I wouldn't say this if we didn't have the evidence beyond a shadow of a doubt."

Judge Haggerty, who will call a panel of 25 prospective jurors, has said he will hold court seven days a week, even through the festive Mardi Gras, if necessary.

Shaw, a handsome sometime-playwright who for 18 years headed the New Orleans International Trade Mart, has been freed on \$100,000 bond.

MORE MORE MORE

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