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By BILL CRIDER

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS AP - A grey-haired Negro was sworn Tuesday as the first juror for the trial of Clay L. Shaw, charged with conspiring to murder President John F. Kennedy.

Irvin Mason, 48, a machine operator at a sulphur company here, survived two hours of rigorous questioning by state and defense lawyers.

Mason's replies were legal perfection. He had read little about the celebrated case, discussed it sparingly, saw none of the television shows based on it, had no opinions about it and didn't mind if the trial took two months.

In winding up his interrogation, chief defense lawyer F. Irvin Dymond leaned back, regarded Mason with a perplexed frown and asked: "You want to be a juror on this case, do you not?"

Mason had no chance to answer. Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. of Criminal District Court intervened and said, "He wants to do his civic duty as a citizen."

Mason raised his right hand, was sworn in and the judge leaned down and informed him that as a juror he was among those privileged to smoke during the trial.

While questioning Mason, Dymond said there was absolutely no doubt that Shaw would take the witness stand in his own behalf during the trial.

Earlier, Dymond had filed an exception as grounds for possible appeal when Judge Haggerty ruled that the state did not have to accept a juror before passing him on to defense examination. The juror in question was Mason.

The first prospective juror-named, ironically, John Kennedy- WAS EXCUSED BY Judge Haggerty after saying he had a fixed opinion on the case.

Rigid security, 4th graf A241.

To update sub for 7th graf: kitchen.

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison made a brief appearance Tuesday afternoon at the trial-the first legal showdown on his claim that the President was assassinated by a crew of conspirators, not killed by a lone sniper.

Asst. Dist., 8th graf A241.

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