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NEW ORLEANS AP - Hard financial facts of life complicated the picking of a jury today in the trial of Clay Shaw, charged with conspiring to murder President John F. Kennedy.

Who could afford to be a juror? That was the question. The trial, the prosecution said, could last up to two months. Jurors draw no pay from the state.

Just two jurors met all tests at the opening session and were seated. Of 18 dismissed, about half were excused because their employer wouldn't continue their pay during jury confinement.

Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. repeatedly sent prospective jurors back to his quarters to telephone the boss and confirm the matter of pay.

Shaw, 55, chain-smoked as he watched the proceedings—and often gazed impassively into space. He was flanked by four defense lawyers, headed by F. Irvin Dymond.

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison dropped in briefly during the first day, but left things to Asst. Dist. Atty. James L. Alcock,

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The trial looms as the courtroom test of Garrison's claim that President Kennedy's assassination in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, was done by a gang of conspirators—not just one lone sniper.

This conflicts head-on with the Warren Commission's official report that Kennedy was shot by former New Orleans resident Lee Harvey Oswald, working alone and for reasons unknown.

Garrison's case against Shaw contends he conspired with Oswald and others in New Orleans, some weeks before the assassination.

Shaw, free on \$10,000 bond since his arrest in March 1967, flatly denied any knowledge of the slaying, other than news reports.

The first juror seated was Irvin Mason, 48, a machine operator at a sulphur company, later joined in the jury box by Oliver M. Schultz, 39, a truck driver.

Under questioning, both men were apparent paragons of open-mindedness. Each testified he had read little about the case, seldom talked about it, saw few television reports on it, had no opinions and didn't care how long the trial lasted.

"You want to be a juror in this case, do you not?" Dymond asked Mason, regarding him with a perplexed frown. Judge Haggerty blocked any answer. Asked the same question by Alcock, Schultz smiled and said, before the judge could intervene: "Not necessarily."

Dymond expended the first of his 12 peremptory challenges in dismissing one man accepted by the state before Schultz was seated.

trial seated

At the morning session today, three prospective jurors were excused after saying they had fixed opinions in the case and a fourth man was excused by mutual consent.

The state used its first peremptory challenge today to dismiss a fifth prospective juror, Leo Martin, who said he felt one man alone had shot Kennedy.

Asked by the prosecution if the state would have to present extra testimony to prove that several persons were involved in the assassination, Martin replied: "I would expect 'em to prove it. I wouldn't just take your word for it."

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during interrogations, Dymond said the tall, craggy-featured defendant definitely will testify before the defense rests its case.

As for jurors, despite the long trial ahead they found that rank has its privileges. Judge Haggerty, after they were sworn, informed them they were now among those permitted to smoke in the courtroom.

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