

January 24, 1969

Page 9

Garrison vindicated**Affidavit puts new light on Shaw trial**

New Orleans—The long delayed trial of Clay Shaw for conspiracy to assassinate Pres. John F. Kennedy got under way Monday with selection of a jury.

State of Louisiana
Parish of Orleans

AFFIDAVIT

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, Notary Public for

the Parish of Orleans, personally came and appeared:

FRED H. LEEMANS, SR., who, after being first duly sworn, did depose and say as follows:

That I am the same Fred Leemans who appeared on the NBC nationwide telecast entitled "The J.F.K. Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison" on Monday, June 19, 1967.

That while appearing on this program I stated that a member of Jim Garrison's staff, one Robert E. Lee, had offered me \$2,500 for testimony to the effect that Clay Shaw used my turkish bath and that on those occasions he used the name Clay Bertrand. I further related how Mr. Garrison's office attempted to get me to identify a young white male, who accompanied Shaw to the baths, as Lee Harvey Oswald.

I now state freely and voluntarily and without any promises of reward or immunity that the statements I made on the NBC program relative to Garrison's office offering me a bribe for testimony favorable to their case was a lie.

I am making this statement after serious thought and long deliberation principally to clear the name of Robert E. Lee, former Assistant District Attorney, and the office of Jim Garrison from the false accusations that I had

made. My conscience would not allow me to defame and impugn the character of Mr. Lee and the office of Jim Garrison any longer.

I would like to state the reasons for which I appeared on the NBC show and lied about my contacts with the District Attorney's office. First, I received numerous anonymous threatening phone calls relative to the information that I had given Mr. Garrison. The gist of these calls was to the effect that if I did not change my statement and state that I had been bribed by Jim Garrison's office, I and my family would be in physical danger.

In addition to the anonymous phone calls, I was visited by a man who exhibited a badge and stated that he was a government agent. This man informed me that the government was presently checking the bar owners in the Slidell area for possible income tax violations. This man then inquired whether I was the Mr. Leemans involved in the Clay Shaw case. When I informed him that I was, he said that it was not smart to be involved because a lot of people that had been got hurt and that people in powerful places would see to it that I was taken care of.

One of the anonymous callers suggested that I change my statement and state that I had

been bribed by Garrison's office to give him the information about Clay Shaw. He suggested that I contact Mr. Irvin Dymond, Attorney for Clay L. Shaw, and tell him that I gave Mr. Garrison the statement about Shaw only after Mr. Lee offered me \$2,500. After consulting with Mr. Dymond by telephone and in person, I was introduced to Walter Sheridan, Investigative Reporter for NBC, who was then in the process of preparing the NBC show. Mr. Dymond and Mr. Sheridan suggested that I appear on the show and state what I had originally told Mr. Dymond about the bribe offer by the District Attorney's Office.

I was informed by Mr. Dymond that should the District Attorney's office charge me with giving false information as a result of my repudiating the statement I had originally given them, he would see to it that I had an attorney and that a bond would be posted for me. In this connection Mr. Dymond gave me his home and office telephone numbers and advised me that I could contact him at any time of day or night should I be charged by Garrison's office as a result of my appearing on the NBC show.

My actual appearance on the show was taped in the office of Aaron Kohn, Managing Director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, in the presence of Walter Sheridan and Irvin Dymond.

FRED H. LEEMANS, SR.
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS 6th DAY OF
January, 1969.
BYRON P. LEGENDRE,
Notary Public