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SHAW TRIAL NL 260

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NEW ORLEANS AP - Trial Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr.

told state and defense attorneys Saturday he is clamping down on the disqualifying of prospective jurors in the trial of Clay L. Shaw, charged with plotting to kill President Kennedy.

"I've had a change of heart on that," Haggerty said. "I've read some law on the question since yesterday and I think I may have been somewhat lenient."

Nearly 200 prospective jurors were called to the witness stand in the first five days of proceedings, but only eight were accepted. Twelve will be required, plus two alternates.

In Saturday's brief session, the entire list of 26 was exhausted without a juror being chosen. A fresh batch of prospects will be examined when court resumes Monday.

Haggerty at first refused to disqualify a man who acknowledged having an opinion about the assassination, but not about the Shaw case.

After more questioning, the juror was excused. But Haggerty served notice he would tighten his handling of such issues. No person lives "in a vacuum," he said, and if a prospective juror declares that his views "would yield to evidence in court, I think that man's qualified."

Numerous veniremen have been excused for having fixed opinions. Many others have been excused because they said lengthy separation from family or business would create hardships. The trial is expected to run six to eight weeks and Orleans parish does not pay jurors.

During the first five days, Shaw, a 55-year-old retired businessman and decorated veteran of World War II, sat impassively through most of the proceedings, smoking steadily. He was indicted March 22 by a grand jury that charged he conspired with David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald "and others" to murder Kennedy. He said at the time: "I am completely innocent."

The Warren Commission in its official investigation found no credible evidence of a conspiracy and said Oswald alone shot and killed Kennedy Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas.

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