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Kennedy Autopsy Lead 200

By MARTHA COLE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON AP -- A Washington judge directed that he be informed by Wednesday whether New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison intends to show that President John F. Kennedy's death resulted from a conspiracy involving Clay Shaw.

Judge Charles Halleck ordered the information before he rules on Garrison's efforts to obtain release of the autopsy photographs and X rays of the assassinated president held secret in the National Archives.

Shaw, a retired New Orleans business man, faces trial on charges of conspiring to kill Kennedy, but Numa F. Bertel Jr., a member of Garrison's staff, said it is not necessary to show in that trial that Kennedy's death was a result of the conspiracy.

Halleck said that if no effort is to be made to link the conspiracy and the death, then it is irrelevant where the shots that killed Kennedy came from.

Garrison aides contended in a brief filed Friday that a medical review of autopsy pictures provides new questions as to the number of missile wounds Kennedy suffered and the direction from which they came.

Halleck, judge of the Court of General Sessions, set next Friday to hear evidence to back up their contentions that the material should be released.

But he asked for a statement of their intent in the Shaw trial by Wednesday noon.

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Kennedy Autopsy 380

WASHINGTON AP -- Attorneys for New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison contended Friday that a medical review of autopsy pictures of former President John F. Kennedy provides new questions as to the number of missile wounds on the late President and the direction from which they came.

The attorneys made their comments in a new brief filed with Judge Charles Halleck of the Court of General Sessions, seeking release of the autopsy photographs and X rays of the President.

Garrison has sought the documents for use in the trial of Clay Shaw in New Orleans on charges of conspiring to murder Kennedy.

Judge Halleck arranged to hear the attorneys during the afternoon and then make his decision on the next step he will take.

In their brief, the attorneys said they were prepared to produce two witnesses for questioning at any hearing. They named them as Dr. Robert Forman, chairman of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Wisconsin State University, Oshkosh, Wis.; and Dr. Cyril Wecht, research professor of law at Duquesne University. Both have published their own conclusions about the autopsy on President Kennedy.

THE LAWYERS SAID IN THEIR NEW BRIEF THAT THE MEDICAL REVIEW MADE BY A PANEL IN 1968 DOES NOT CONFIRM THE ORIGINAL AUTOPSY FINDINGS, "but on the contrary provides new and more serious questions as to the number of missile wounds and the directions from which the missiles came."

The brief said the questions stemmed from what it said were "crucial ambiguities" in the original autopsy and ambiguities left also by the 1968 panel review.

As an example of questions raised, the brief cites a statement in the 1968 review saying that in a section of Kennedy's brain there were found "numerous small, irregular metallic fragments, most of which are less than 1 mm. in maximum dimension."

The brief adds as unanswered questions: "How many larger than 1 mm? How large?"

The 1968 panel of medical experts that reviewed the autopsy findings said the findings were correct as detailed in the Warren Commission Report and proved Kennedy was shot twice from behind.

Garrison maintains at least one of the bullets came from the front.

Garrison's attorneys appeared before Halleck Jan. 17 to ask for the autopsy photographs and X rays. Halleck refused to give access to them and gave Garrison's staff two weeks to reveal part of what it calls substantial evidence that the autopsy documents will show Kennedy was shot from both the front and rear, not by a lone assassin.

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