

Garrison Uncorks The 'Murder Plot'

NEW ORLEANS, La. (UPI) — Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison told an all-male jury in the Clay L. Shaw trial today the state would prove President F. Kennedy was murdered by a conspiracy and that he fell backward from a fatal shot fired from the front.

Presenting the state's opening statement in its attempt to convict the 55-year-old retired businessman of conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and others to murder Kennedy, Garrison said he would prove the shots in Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas came from "different guns from different locations."

Garrison said the state would produce testimony that after the assassination Nov. 22, 1963, Oswald ran down the grass in front of the school book depository building and

climbed into a station wagon with another man at the wheel "and that this station wagon pulled away and disappeared into the traffic on Elm Street."

The Warren Commission report of September, 1964, concluded that Oswald, acting alone, fired the fatal shots from a sixth-floor window of the depository and that he escaped by taxicab and bus.

The taxi driver — now dead — who testified that he carried Oswald told the Warren Commission he remembered Oswald because he gave him a nickel tip.

Garrison indicated the state will show Oswald carried his rifle into the depository and that he was one of those doing the shooting. But Garrison said Oswald did not fire the

fatal shot itself because Oswald was behind Kennedy.

Reading verbatim from a written statement — which he told the jury was required by Louisiana law — Garrison said the state would prove Kennedy "was murdered not by a lone individual behind him but from a conspiracy."

Reading in a calm, baritone voice and standing in front of the chain-smoking, white-haired Shaw, Garrison said the evidence would show that in June, 1963, Shaw attended a party given in the French Quarter apartment in New Orleans of David W. Ferrie, "an accomplished airplane pilot" and discussed the murder of the President. The indictment against Shaw names Oswald

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and Ferrie, both now dead, as co-conspirators.

Garrison said Shaw was overheard talking with Ferrie and others to the effect that Kennedy should be killed and the murder could best be done with a rifle.

"At this point, the defendant, Clay Shaw, suggested that the man doing the shooting would probably be killed before he could make his escape," Garrison said. "The defendant ... turned to Ferrie and asked if it might not be possible to fly the gunman from the scene of the shooting to safety. Ferrie replied that it would."

Later, in June that year, Garrison said, Shaw was seen talking to Oswald on the shore of Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans.

"The defendant arrived at the lake front in a large, black four-door sedan and was met by Oswald, who had walked there. They had a conversation which lasted approximately 15 minutes.

"At the conclusion, the defendant gave Oswald what appeared to be a roll of money ... In showing the money into his pocket, Oswald dropped several leaflets."

These yellow leaflets were identical with "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" literature taken from Oswald by harbor police earlier that month,

Garrison said.

He said the state would show that in late August or early September, 1963, Oswald wanted to get a job at a state hospital in Jackson, La., and had learned that he had to register to vote to be employed.

Shortly thereafter, Garrison said, Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie drove into Clinton, La., in a black Cadillac and parked near the vote registrar's office.

He said the state would show Oswald got out of the car and into line to register.

One witness, he said, will testify during the trial that he asked Shaw for his identification "and was told by the defendant that he (Shaw) was from the International Trade Mart in New Orleans."

One of the subpoenaed state witnesses is John Manchester, town marshal of Clinton. Shaw, now retired, was then the managing director of the trade mart, which was founded to promote trade through the Port of New Orleans.

"As to the planning — the conspiracy — our jurisdiction is limited to New Orleans, although we will later offer evidence concerning the assassination in Dealey Plaza because it confirms the existence of a conspiracy and because it confirms the significance and relevance of the planning which occurred in New Orleans."