

Garrison Opens Shaw Prosecution

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New Orleans

District Attorney Jim Garrison told a court yesterday he would prove that President John F. Kennedy was killed by a shot fired from in front and died as the result of a conspiracy.

"The evidence will show," Garrison told a jury, "that the final shot that struck him came from in front of him, knocking him backwards in the car."

Garrison asked the jury to convict Clay L. Shaw of conspiring to assassinate Mr. Kennedy in 1963.

WARREN

Over repeated defense objections, Garrison won the right to, in effect, put the Warren Commission report on trial alongside the 55-year-old Shaw, prominent retired New Orleans businessman.

The commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, concluded that Mr. Kennedy's lone assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald. The commission said it found no credible evidence of a conspiracy.

Garrison told the 12 jurors that the prosecution would prove Shaw conspired with Oswald and David W. Ferrie, a former airline pilot, to assassinate Mr. Kennedy.

DEFENSE

Defense Attorney F. Irvin Dymond in his opening statement told the jury: "We are not here to defend the findings of the Warren Commission. That is not this case at all."

In a brief speech he appealed to the jurors not to let the Warren report "obscure the real issues." He said, "I implore you to be careful about that."

The defense will prove, Dymond said, that key prosecu-

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tion witness Perry Raymond Russo "is a liar — a notoriety seeking liar." Dymond said he would prove Russo lied in numerous instances. Russo testified at a preliminary hearing that he heard Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie

plotting to kill Mr. Kennedy in 1963.

WITNESS

The first prosecution witness was Edwin Lee McGehee, a barber from Jackson, La. He testified that in late August or early September 1963 he gave Oswald a haircut.

McGehee testified he sent

Oswald to a state legislator "to see him about getting a job at East Louisiana State Hospital — that he would help him." About two weeks later, the barber said, he told a friend after having seen Oswald on television that he was the man who had his hair cut.

"Is there any special reason why you waited years before saying anything about this to anybody?" Dymond asked.

"Nobody approached me," McGehee said.

DEAD

Oswald and Ferrie were named as conspirators with Shaw in a grand jury indictment of March 1967. Oswald was shot to death by night club owner Jack Ruby in the basement of Dallas police

headquarters two days after the November 22, 1963, assassination. Ferrie died in his apartment soon after Garrison's probe began; the coroner ruled death by brain hemorrhage, but Garrison said it was suicide. Ruby also is dead, victim of cancer while in jail.

Garrison said the state would show these points as evidence of a conspiracy:

- In June 1963 at a party in New Orleans, Shaw and Ferrie discussed killing Kennedy, and later that month Shaw was seen talking to Oswald on the lakefront, and gave Oswald "what appeared to be a roll of money."

- In late August or early September, Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald drove into Clinton, La., in a black Cadillac and parked near the voter registrar's office.

CROSSFIRE

- In September 1963 the three discussed and refined plans to assassinate Kennedy. Crossfire by two or three gunmen was discussed as well as escape routes, and alibis.

- Oswald moved to Dallas, got a job at the Texas Book Depository, rented a room under a fictitious name and on the day of the murder took a rifle into the depository.

Garrison said "the state will establish" that both Mr. Kennedy and former Governor John B. Connally of Texas, riding in the presidential

limousine, "were wounded as a result of gunshots fired by different guns at different locations."

Garrison said the state would put up eyewitnesses, photographs and motion pictures, including the film shot by spectator Abraham Zapruder at the time of the assassination. The state intends to run the film for the jury.

Garrison revealed also that he plans to show that Oswald ran across the grass in front of the book depository a few minutes after the shooting 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."