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Shaw Bgt NL 650, First take 410

By DON MCKEE

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS AP - Clay Shaw's conspiracy trial moved en masse to the French Quarter Saturday as a prosecution witness led judge, jury, lawyers and defendant on a hunt for the apartment where Shaw and others allegedly talked about killing President Kennedy in 1963.

"We found a couple of cute girls," quipped defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond after the guided tour of two apartment buildings near Shaw's own house.

Leading the unusual parade - shortly before the first Mardi Gras carnival parade through the French Quarter - was a balding New York accountant, Charles I. Spiesel, 51.

Spiesel testified Friday he went to a June 1963 party where Shaw was the host in an apartment near or in the French Quarter. A conversation took place about how to assassinate the President, Spiesel said.

Shaw, a 56-year-old bachelor, is on trial on a charge he conspired with LOEB Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie to kill Kennedy. Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin, and Ferrie, a one-time airline pilot, are both dead.

Dymond had demanded the apartment hunt. "I think it's vitally important to the defense of our case for the jury to know if this man knows what he's talking about," he said.

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When the trial resumed, the prosecution asked for an adjournment until Monday to research the past history and ownership of a French Quarter apartment building Spiesel cited on the stand as the most likely location of the party. The judge granted the request.

Spiesel was uncertain if he had found the right place. "I would say the second building we entered is similar, if not the building," he said. But he said it did not have a kitchen-dining room like the setting for the party he attended.

Spiesel made the apartment hunt after testifying that tax account competitors used psychological warfare, hypnosis and disguises to harass him for unexplained reasons.

After granting the defense request for the tour, Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. had the jurors loaded in a bus for the two-mile ride across the city. Shortly before the courtroom contingents arrived, police raided a hippie colony across the street from the apartment houses which Spiesel searched.

The day was mild, sunny. Lawyers, spectators and newsmen waited on the sidewalks and under trees on a grassy street divider. A traffic jam ensued. The jury bus pulled up and the hunt was on, with newsmen kept outside.

Spiesel, puffing a cigar, led the way first into an apartment house only a few doors from Shaw's house. Within five minutes, the group came out. Spiesel, his eyes darting and a muscle twitching in his jaw, headed the procession around the corner and into another apartment building.

After about 15 minutes, the hunt ended. "Mr. Spiesel tells me he doesn't wish to pursue it any further," Haggerty said.

Earlier, Dymond read to the jury a 1964 federal court complaint by Spiesel charging a detective agency and numerous other defendants with harassing him in his New York accountant business. The complaint said the defendants "used a new police technique to torture and conspired with various others to torture the plaintiff Spiesel mentally."

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Spiesel's complaint said his foes disguised themselves as "relatives" to get into his house. He said they had used hypnosis on him, "produced hypnotic delusions" and kept him "under hypnotic control."

"How many people have hypnotized you?" Dymond asked.

"Oh, possibly 50 or 60," Spiesel said with a shrug, tapping the witness box with his right hand.

Q And all this was against your will?

A. Yes.

Q. You ever been hypnotized here in New Orleans?

A. That's a difficult question to answer.

Q. Did anybody ever hypnotize you here in New Orleans?

A. If I say yes, you're going to ask me who they are.

Q. Well, if I promise not to ask you who they are, will you tell me? Have you ever been hypnotized here in New Orleans?

A. Yes.

Spiesel was asked about hypnotic delusions. "Let us say that certain thoughts may be planted," he replied. He testified that in the fall of 1965 he sought sworn statements from both Garrison's office and the New Orleans police to find out if they were following him. He got a statement from

the district attorney's office, but not the police, he said.

In another development, Shaw's attorneys ran an ad in Saturday's New Orleans States-Item seeking "the person who signed the name Clay Bertrand" to an airport lounge guest register.

Garrison contends Shaw signed the name Clay Bertrand at the airport in December 1966 and used the same alias in trying to get a lawyer for Oswald, who was arrested shortly after the assassination in Dallas.

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