

★ Garrison Should Resign ★

(An Editorial)

District Attorney Jim Garrison should resign. He has shown himself unfit to hold the office of district attorney or any other office.

Mr. Garrison has abused the vast powers of his office. He has perverted the law rather than prosecuted it. His persecution of Clay L. Shaw was a perversion of the legal process such as has not been often seen.

Mr. Garrison's conspiracy case was built upon the quicksands of unreliability and in the end it did not stand up. A 12-man jury found unanimously that Mr. Shaw is innocent.

Clay L. Shaw has been vindicated, but the damage to his reputation caused by Mr. Garrison's witch hunt may never be repaired. It is all too shameful.

This travesty of justice is a reproach to the conscience of all good men and must not go unanswered.

Mr. Garrison himself should now be brought to the bar to answer for his conduct.

Mr. Garrison himself should be the object of our scrutiny. His handling of the Shaw case, we believe, merits the closest examination by the state and local bar associations.

This newspaper has been constrained from comment on the case by the guidelines set out by Judge Haggerty to insure a fair trial, guidelines which Mr. Garrison himself has consistently ignored. We have had to bite our tongue in the face of the injustice that unfolded before us.

But that is the case no more. The jury has spoken. Clay L. Shaw is innocent. And Mr. Garrison stands revealed for what he is: A man without principle who would pervert the legal process to his own ends.

Garrison, in closing remarks, told the jury: "Finally, this case is before a court of law. Finally, justice can be done."

THE 12-MAN JURY HAD its own ideas about justice, however.

"Garrison has a right to his opinion about the government and the Warren Commission," said juror David I. Powe shortly after court adjourned. "But I just don't feel his opinion is enough to convict a man."

Shaw, 6-foot-4-inch retired businessman, stood in a protective circle of sheriff's deputies as the verdict was read. He was mobbed by his friends afterwards.

"Do you wish the jury polled?" asked Judge Haggerty, looking at the state table, from which Garrison had departed an hour earlier.

CHIEF PROSECUTOR JAMES L. Alcock, slumped low in his chair, shook his head wearily from side to side. But Powe, a juror who grew a goatee while sequestered during the trial, said the verdict was unanimous and was reached on the first ballot.

The trial began Jan. 21, and consumed 34 full days. Yesterday was the longest, beginning at 9 a. m. and ending after 1 a. m. today.

The jurors looked as happy as Shaw at being freed. The ex-defendant shook hands with each of them as they filed out.

Shaw was hustled out the back door of the courtroom and left in a car, with a line of deputies pushing newsmen and spectators away from the garage exit.

GARRISON HAD LEFT LONG before the verdict. He told a newsmen:

"It certainly has been an interesting case, hasn't it? No matter how this thing ends, I will not hold a news conference. I'm tired of being called flamboyant. Everybody knows I am not flamboyant."

There was no comment from anyone on the state side. Shaw and his attorneys scheduled a news conference for this afternoon.

Garrison had charged Shaw with conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie to kill Kennedy, shot to death in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963. The Warren Commission named Oswald as the lone assassin.

Much of the prosecution's case concentrated on attacking the commission's conclusion Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy.

"We were trying Shaw, not the Warren Commission," said juror Powe. "But I felt two or three times that I didn't know who we were trying—the FBI, the federal government, the Secret service. . . ."

THE JURORS WERE OBVIOUSLY ANXIOUS to finish

(Turn to Page 12, Column 1)



—Associated Press photo.
CHIEF DEFENSE attorney F. IRWIN DYMOND, right, raises his arm in a victory gesture early Saturday after Clay Shaw is found not guilty of conspiring to kill President Kennedy. Defense attorneys **EDWARD WEGMANN**, left, and **SALVATORE PANZECA** lend support.