



CLAY SHAW
Not guilty

A Quick Acquittal For Shaw

NEW ORLEANS — (UPI) — An all-male jury today awarded Clay Shaw a unanimous first-ballot acquittal on District Attorney Jim Garrison's charge he conspired to murder President John Kennedy.

Only nine votes of the 12-man panel were needed for a verdict. The jury's decision was announced 54 minutes after they retired to deliberate. It was the second anniversary of Shaw's arrest.

"We took one ballot, and it was unanimous," said juror Larry Morgan, 24.

Shaw, 55, retired managing director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart, appeared stunned as a clerk intoned the words:

"We the jury find the defendant not guilty."

Then, as the courtroom erupted in applause, his face creased in a grin and he threw his arm around his attorney, Edward Wegmann, before walking to the swinging doors of the courtroom rail to shake each juror's hand.

Garrison appealed, emotionally, that the jurors not

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allow themselves to be pressured by what he called "powerful forces" in the federal government seeking to suppress the real facts of the Kennedy assassination.

He was not in the courtroom when the verdict was announced.

Shaw was whisked away in a car surrounded by security men. District Judge Edward Haggerty Jr. left the courtroom after saying, "I'm glad it's over with. I hope I handled it right."

It was a stunning victory for the white-haired, barrel-chested Shaw, who had maintained his innocence of all facets of the charge that he used the alias "Clem Bertrand" to conspire in September, 1963 with Lee Harvey Oswald and David Ferrie to assassinate Kennedy.

It was an even more stunning defeat for Garrison, who for two years had called the Warren Commission report a "fairy tale" and had told the jurors in summation just before they began deliberating that the government handling of the assassination investigation was a fraud.

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