

Jury Finds Clay Shaw Not Guilty

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New Orleans

Clay L. Shaw, two years to the day after his arrest, was found innocent early Saturday of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy.

An all-male jury took only 56 minutes to clear Shaw of charges that he conspired with Lee Harvey Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie in 1963.

The decision came after a long night of bitter summations in which District Attorney Jim Garrison emotionally attacked the very core of the Federal system and invoked Kennedy's own words in a final effort to win a conviction.

Garrison himself was attacked by Shaw's chief attorney, F. Irvin Dymond, as using Shaw as an innocent victim in a vendetta against the United States government.

Shaw, obviously worn from

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the long day, but still smiling, shook the hand of each juror as he left the courtroom.

Shaw was arrested on March 1, 1967 and charged with conspiring to the assassination with Oswald and Ferrie, a flying instructor.

The man who brought about his arrest and who inveighed against the Warren Commission during the two years, Garrison, was not in the courtroom when the verdict came at 1:01 a.m. CST.

The vote meant at least nine of the jury of 10 husbands and two bachelors felt that bachelor Shaw was innocent. The count of at least

nine was mandatory for a verdict either way under Louisiana's conspiracy law.

SCREAMS

Piercing screams from female members of the packed courtroom and applause greeted the verdict. District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. did not attempt to stop it.

In his dramatic summation, Garrison told the jurors the truth of the assassination had been hidden from the world and that only they could show that the government could not control the lives of everyone.

Garrison said although he knew Shaw was guilty, he admitted he had waited all through the trial to see "the

truth" revealed about the assassination.

"There is excessive powers in some areas of our government so that people have not received all the truth about some of the things that have happened," he said. "One of these things is the assassination."

He told the jury that it represented the hope of humanity against "government power."

He then ended his 29-minute summation with Mr. Kennedy's own words — spoken during his inaugural address January 20, 1961.

Garrison said:

"Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country."