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BULLETIN

NEW ORLEANS AP - Clay Shaw was acquitted Saturday of a charge that he conspired to assassinate President John F. Kennedy in 1963. The Criminal District Court jury returned its verdict of innocent after deliberating about 50 minutes.

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BULLETIN

BERLIN AP - Communist East Germany closed the main autobahn between West Berlin and West Germany this morning, Western border officers reported.

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SHAW BJT 7th NL
URGENT

By DON MCKEE

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS AP - Retired trade promoter Clay L. Shaw was acquitted early Saturday of a charge of conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy in a jury verdict that upheld the federal government's finding of fact in the 1963 slaying.

The verdict by a 12-man jury came at 1:02 a.m., 54 minutes after deliberations began.

A crowd of mostly women spectators began screaming and crying, "No! No!"

Tears welled into Shaw's eyes and he shook hands with each juror as they filed out. Shaw, 55, retired managing director of the International Trade Mart underwent a six-week trial and the verdict came on the second anniversary of his arrest, March 1, 1967.

A solid ring of deputies-nine of them-surrounded Shaw and his lawyers when the verdict was read.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. asked the jury, "Gentlemen, have you arrived at a verdict?"

"Yes," replied foreman Sidney J. Hebert Jr.

"Stand up, Mr. Shaw," the judge directed. Shaw stood. Then the clerk read the verdict.

"We the jury find the defendant not guilty--"

Screams and near bedlam erupted from perhaps two dozen spectators and it took a few moments to restore order. The prosecution did not request a poll of the jury, so the vote was not known immediately.

The verdict came after Garrison himself labeled the official investigation by the Warren Commission fraudulent and called for the jury to "cause justice to happen for the first time in this matter."

Shaw's attorney, F. Irvin Dymond, pleaded for an acquittal, branding Garrison's case "an Alice-in-Wonderland story."

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Shaw Add

NEW ORLEANS-Shaw 7th NL, A013, add: story."

Near the end of the trial, Shaw took the stand in his own defense, denying that he ever plotted to kill Kennedy, that he ever wanted to see Kennedy dead and that he ever knew the other alleged conspirators.

Garrison 8th graf 5th NL, A326, deleting A004, 6th NL.

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URGENT

SHAW TRIAL 6th NL AMS IN

By DON MCKEE

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS AP - A 12-man jury began deliberating early Saturday the fate of Clay Shaw, charged with conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. The trial was in its 34th day.

The jury got the case at 12:08 a.m. after a marathon round of closing arguments in which Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison in effect asked for a verdict not only convicting Shaw but the Warren Commission as well.

Garrison said the federal government's handling of the case assassination probe "is probably the greatest fraud ever perpetrated in the history of human kind."

He charged that the commission had concealed evidence, including a home movie of the killing. The movie, he said, proved his claim Kennedy was killed in a crossfire.

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SHAW BJT 5th NL 200

By DON MCKEE

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS AP - Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison charged Friday night that the government's handling of President John F. Kennedy's assassination probe "is probably the greatest fraud ever perpetrated in the history of human time."

Garrison wound up a marathon round of state and defense arguments before a jury was given the case of Clay Shaw, who is charged with conspiring to assassinate Kennedy.

Garrison ended his speech, the fifth by the prosecution, shortly before 11:30 p.m. But Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. of the Criminal District Court said after a brief recess he would go ahead and charge the jury.

Haggerty said earlier the jury, if it wished, could begin deliberating after his charge.

It would require nine of the 12 jurors for either conviction or acquittal on the charge of criminal conspiracy which carries a penalty of 1-to-20 years in prison.

Shaw, retired New Orleans businessman, was charged exactly two years ago-March 1, 1967-with plotting with Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie, both now dead, to kill Kennedy.

Garrison countered defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond's branding the conspiracy investigation "an Alice-in-Wonderland story" in appealing for acquittal.

Garrison, whose assistant argued that the state had proved Kennedy died in a crossfire from three guns, said "massive power has been brought to bear" to prevent Shaw's trial.

Garrison repeatedly labeled the federal government's investigation a fraud, and he referred to the Warren Commission as fraudulent.

"There are forces in America today, unfortunately, who are not in favor of the truth coming out about John W. Kennedy's assassination," he said, but did not explain.

"I suggest that you, 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what can you do for your country,'" he said in closing, quoting from Kennedy's inaugural address.

Gentlemen, 2nd graf 4th NL a322, deleting 5th-6th graf: The x x x jurors.

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SHAW BJT 4th NL 290

By DON MCKEE

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS AP - Defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond

branded the conspiracy case against Clay Shaw "an Alice-in-Wonderland" story Friday night and urged an acquittal by the 12-man jury.

"Gentlemen, the entire world is waiting to find out whether you can convict a man on an Alice-in-Wonderland story," Dymond told the jury in his summation.

Dymond tore into Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's case, arguing that Shaw was on trial "for no other purpose than to create the forum for an attack on the Warren Commission."

The commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, after a lengthy investigation concluded there was no credible evidence of conspiracy and that Kennedy died Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas at the hands of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The state charges Shaw plotted with Oswald and David W. Ferrie, both now dead.

Conviction on the criminal conspiracy charge would mean 1-to-20 years imprisonment for Shaw, arrested exactly two years ago-March 1, 1967. Louisiana law permits conviction or acquittal by nine of the 12 jurors.

Dymond's argument came after a member of Garrison's team declared the state had proved Kennedy was killed by three

different guns. "The Warren Commission is not on trial in this courtroom," Dymond said.

"I, as an American citizen and a loyal citizen, cannot and will not accept the innuendo that the Warren Commission is guilty of one great fraud-that the United States government is guilty of one great fraud, as the state would have you to believe, to deceive the people of the United States."

"How inconceivable it is that our Secret Service, our FBI, the Justice Department, the Dallas Police Department, the doctors in Parkland Hospital in Dallas and the doctors at the Naval hospital in Bethesda would all join together to make our people

believe the Texas School Book Depository when he was killed in some other way."

Assistant Dist. Atty. Alvin Oser, earlier drawing deductions about three guns from testimony, photographs and a home movie of the slaying, told the jury, "It's triangulation of fire."

Oser followed chief prosecutor James L. Alcock, who told the jury the state had proved Shaw "an absolute liar and absolutely guilty" of conspiring to murder Kennedy.

Oser's, 7th graf a304

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SHAW BJT 2nd NL 350

By DON MCKEE

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS AP - One of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's prosecutors argued to the jury Friday night the state had proved President John F. Kennedy was killed by three different gunmen in a conspiracy hatched by Clay Shaw and two other men.

"It's triangulation of fire," said assistant Dist. Atty. Alvin Oser, drawing deductions about three guns from testimony, photographs and a home movie of Kennedy's slaying.

Oser followed chief prosecutor James L. Alcock, who told the jury the state had proved Shaw "an absolute liar and absolutely guilty" of conspiring to murder Kennedy.

Final arguments continued into the night.

No mention was made by state attorneys of what Shaw's alleged motive was. Shaw denied the conspiracy charge when he took the stand Thursday.

Conviction on the criminal conspiracy charge, for which no motive has to be proved, would mean 1-to-20 years imprisonment for Shaw, arrested exactly two years ago-March 1, 1967. Louisiana law permits conviction or acquittal by nine of the 12 jurors.

Oser's announcement that Garrison's triangulation of fire contentions had actually been proven came after he analyzed and interpreted evidence.

He also roundly criticized and lowered the Warren Commission's investigation of the assassination. Special sarcasm was afforded the commission's reconstruction of the murder, which Oser argued-if done right would have proven there were three guns.

Oser argued that Abraham Zapruder's movie film, on the basis of its speed, showed the impossibility of one gunman firing the first two shots within the time indicated, to Oser, by the film.

He said testimony of a state witness, a doctor who looked at the film, showed the first shot that hit Kennedy had to be fired at a 28-degree angle to go through the neck without striking bones as the autopsy showed.

"So," Oser declared, "I believe, gentlemen, the state has proved to your satisfaction and beyond any reasonable doubt that not only could one gun not have got off two shots in the time span indicated but the same bullet couldn't have hit both President Kennedy and Gov. Connally." He referred to former Texas Gov. John Connally, wounded seriously in the assassination.

Next, Oser analyzed Kennedy's fatal head wound. He said the home movie showed Kennedy's head jerked backward and that a housewife testified she was nearby and thought there was a crossfire.

Thus, said Oser, "We now have three people. We now have three guns. It's triangulation of fire."

Oser said the Warren Commission's reconstruction of the killing was "the monumental flop investigation of reconstruction in the world."

Final arguments began Friday afternoon after the defense lost its second motion for a court-ordered verdict of innocent following the last state rebuttal testimony.

Alcock etc., 4th graf 2nd NL a270

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Shaw Bjt 2nd NL 240

By DON McKEE

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS AP - Chief prosecutor James L. Alcock told a 12-man jury Friday the state had proved Clay Shaw "an absolute liar and absolutely guilty" of conspiring to murder President John F. Kennedy.

Alcock asked for a verdict of guilty against the 55-year-old Shaw, charged with criminal conspiracy. Conviction would mean one-to-20 years in prison for Shaw, who was arrested and charged exactly two years ago-March 1, 1967. Under Louisiana law, nine of the 12 jurors are sufficient for conviction or acquittal.

Final arguments began Friday afternoon as Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. of Criminal District Court denied the defense's second motion for a verdict of directed acquittal after the state finished its rebuttal.

Alcock recited much of the state's case in his summation to the jury.

"We have here parts of a puzzle," Alcock said. "I am going to try to bring together the parts."

At the request of the trial, Alcock said, Shaw had been proven "a liar unworthy of your belief." Witnesses for the state linked Shaw with Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie, Alcock said, although Shaw denied knowing them.

Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as Kennedy's lone assassin, but the state contends that Oswald and Ferrie, both now dead, plotted with Shaw to assassinate Kennedy in 1963.

Alcock's argument was full of references to coincidences and curious events. He said, for example, that when Shaw first denied guilt after his arrest, his statement referred to Harvey Lee Oswald-the same way Oswald's name was listed on an application for a hospital job at Jackson, La., according to a state witness. The 66th, 4th graf A233, fixing in 5th graf to read: xx expert, Elizabeth McCarthy Bailey of Boston, who said she uses her maiden name in her business.

At the outset of the trial,
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Shaw But NL 350

By DON McKEE

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS, La. AP - Clay Shaw's trial on a charge of conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy reached the closing argument stage Friday—the final step before the 12-man jury begins deliberating.

Shaw, a 55-year-old retired New Orleans businessman, took the stand Thursday and swore he was innocent.

Conviction would mean one-to-20 years in prison for Shaw, who was arrested and charged exactly two years ago—March 1, 1967. Under Louisiana law, the jury's verdict—either to acquit or convict—must be by at least a 9-3 margin.

The 66th and last witness in the trial's 23rd day was a handwriting expert who said it was "highly probable" that Shaw signed the name Clay Bertrand in a guest register.

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, who showed up only a few other times in the courtroom, questioned the expert, Elizabeth McCarthy of Boston.

She testified that she had compared Shaw's signature with the signature "Clay Bertrand," which the state contends was Shaw's alias in conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie, both now dead. The Warren Commission said Oswald was the lone assassin and there was no credible evidence of conspiracy.

Garrison asked Mrs. McCarthy if she had reached a conclusion. She said, "Yes."

Q. Would you state your conclusion?

A. It's my opinion that it is highly probable that Clay Shaw signed the name Clay Bertrand.

Her testimony clashed with that of a defense witness, an FBI expert, who had testified that Shaw positively did not sign the "Bertrand" name in a New Orleans airport VIP guest register in 1967.

Two other rebuttal witnesses testified for the state Friday.

Dr. John M. Nichols, a University of Kansas pathologist, said it would have been impossible for a bullet to pass through Kennedy's neck, as a defense witness said, without fracturing a bone.

Army pathologist Col. Pierre A. Finck, a member of the Kennedy autopsy team, had said X-rays showed no bones were hit by the bullet, one of two that struck Kennedy.

Nichols also challenged the autopsy team's failure to dissect the throat tract to ascertain the path of the bullet. He said this should have been done. His testimony was aimed at backing the state's contention that Kennedy was killed in a crossfire. The autopsy finding was that both shots entered the back.

Peter Schuster, a photographer for the Orleans Parish coroner, testified he believed there was a man "holding something" in a photograph of the grassy knoll area of Dealey Plaza in Dallas where Kennedy was shot Nov. 22, 1963.

The spot is some distance from the Texas School Book Depository from which the Warren Commission said Oswald fired the fatal shots.

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