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WITH SHAW 400

By BILL CRIDER

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NEW ORLEANS AP - A rested and relaxed Clay Shaw looked back over his long trial Saturday and pledged: "This is by no means the end of the matter."

A few hours earlier, the big, white-haired retired businessman had been acquitted on a charge of conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and others to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Shaw declined to specify what retaliation he had in mind but was sharply critical of the group of private businessmen who financed Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe.

Asked if a damage suit was planned, Shaw's lawyers said one was under consideration.

"News is made when it is made and not by somebody talking about what they are going to do when," Shaw told a news conference.

"We are all aware of the fact that a group of private businessmen contributed money to the public prosecutor to go out and investigate someone," he added.

"I think it is appalling that a public official would accept funds from two or three rich men to investigate anyone or anything . . . you can see the door it opens to the most wild and bizarre abuses of power."

Shaw referred to a group, headed by Joseph M. Rault Jr., president of Rault Petroleum Corp. of New Orleans, and named Truth and Consequences of New Orleans, Inc.

Truth and Consequences was formed in 1967 to underwrite Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination. It opened in late 1966, three years after the president was slain in Dallas.

"We are prepared to back Jim Garrison all the way," Rault said at the time the group was created. "It can be a year-or five years, if necessary. We'll provide whatever he needs. No questions asked."

The unorthodox financing came about partly as a result of news disclosures that Garrison was conducting the investigation.

The district attorney complained that public records of his expenditures tipped off newsmen and impeded his probe. The solution, he said, was to find money that didn't have to be accounted for in public records.

"We're just in this because—as the name says—we want the truth to come out no matter what the results are," Rault had said.

"Who knows? The consequences could be to Garrison."

After his criticism of Truth and Consequences, Shaw was asked: "Are you saying now that there has been truth, there shall be consequences?" He laughed but didn't reply.

Acquittal came two years to the day from the date Shaw was arrested at Garrison's office. Trial had been delayed by frequent defense appeals and legal maneuvers.

"We had no idea what kind of case Garrison had," said F. Irvin Dymond, the chief defense attorney. "We took every precaution. But if we had known, we would have been hollering for a trial two years ago."

Shaw said the legal fight had changed him from a retired man of comfortable wealth to a man looking for a job.

"One thought has rarely been absent from my mind during the two years," said Shaw. "What would have happened if I had been friendless, absolutely poor and not in a position to defend myself?"

"You can't help thinking that maybe this has happened more often than any of us realize."

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