

Judge Ponders Decision on Shaw Hearing

A preliminary hearing to determine whether Clay L. Shaw should be tried on charges of perjury loomed today as a distinct possibility.

The final decision on whether to call a hearing where witnesses will be heard is in the hands of Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara.

Assistant Dist. Atty. James L. Alcock today presented arguments to O'Hara aimed at countering the contention of Shaw's attorneys that the indictment against Shaw is not valid.

The perjury indictment charges that Shaw lied in his conspiracy trial earlier this year when he testified he did not know Lee Harvey Oswald or David Ferrie. Shaw was found innocent of charges of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy.

Shaw's lawyers held their client cannot be tried on perjury charges stemming from his conspiracy trial.

Alcock said today such a ruling would immunize defendants who testify falsely from subsequent prosecution for perjury related to their previous false testimony.

O'Hara, who took the matter under advisement, has the option of calling a preliminary hearing to decide the issue.

Scaccia Raps Garrison for 'Job Neglect'

Ross Scaccia, candidate for district attorney, charged today that incumbent DA Jim Garrison is "so obsessed with the prosecution of Clay Shaw that he has neglected the pursuit of the common criminal."

Scaccia, addressing the Press Club of New Orleans, cited an instance where he said a drug peddler caught with \$200,000 in a suitcase had to be turned loose because police and the DA's office failed to take basic steps to assure that the arrest was within the law's requirements.

SCACCIA ALSO attacked the leading mayoral candidates, charging they are too afraid of Garrison to take a stand on who the next DA should be.

"The candidates for mayor are willing to talk about such tough topics as efficiency in government but they haven't the guts to tackle a real issue—like who the next DA should be," said Scaccia.

He also attacked Harry Connick, another candidate for Garrison's job.

"Connick is the federal government's choice for DA of New Orleans," he said. "Connick is a leftist. Who's he ever prosecuted except for policemen on brutality charges?"

CONNICK IS a former assistant U.S. attorney.

Scaccia said he was a top prosecutor in Garrison's office but quit over the Clay Shaw case "because my own investigation convinced me it was made up—a farce."

Scaccia said if elected, he'll work closely with police and tackle crime in the streets.