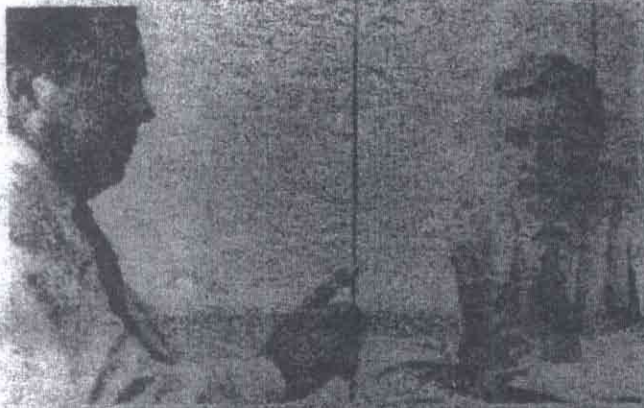


## Behind the scenes



Warren Rogers (left) in his old friend Jean Van Johnson, Ed Wegmann, at a case in point.

The persecution of Clay Shaw took Warren Rogers back to New Orleans, his hometown. Rogers spent some of this season's warmest hours there tracing the intricate point-counter-point of the DA's bizarre investigation that led to the indictment, trial and acquittal of Clay Shaw on charges of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy.

Rogers knew Shaw slightly some 30 years ago: "I was only seventeen or eighteen. I would run into him occasionally in the French Quarter." This time, Rogers spent about four hours interviewing Shaw, who was once head of New Orleans' International Trade Mart. "The last thing," Rogers said, "that you would ever think of, knowing Shaw, is

that he would be involved in any kind of conspiracy with the sleazy characters Garrison produced. Or even that he would be involved in any kind of conspiracy. But Garrison knew he had a vulnerable man. It is inconceivable to me that Shaw would tear down an institution like the American Presidency. He is a liberal, and his whole life has been one of building and constructing.

"I got to see my family," our man said about his New Orleans assignment. "My father, two brothers and two brothers-in-law, and I met all my aunts and nephews—good Irish kids. As a boy, Rogers used to play ball with Williams and Francis X. Wegmann. Their brother, Edward, is Clay Shaw's defense attorney and Francis is Warren's father's dentist. "Eddie and I became very good friends. This was his first criminal case, and he won it. He has a batting average of a thousand. Once, when we were kids," Rogers continued, "he threw me out of his yard. He would have been about nineteen. I was fifteen. He lost his patience with me. But he couldn't hit me. I was too small." When last measured at the bar at Tools Shop, Rogers came to six feet.