

# 'This Is a Dangerous Thing' Shaw Decries DA's Fund

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By LANNY THOMAS

Clay L. Shaw today said the "most horrifying" aspect of his trial for conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy was the contribution of large sums of money by private citizens to finance the prosecution.

"I hope this will never be repeated," he said. "This is a dangerous thing."

Shaw, reflecting on his prosecution that dragged through the courts for more than five years, charged that the private contributions amounted to a conspiracy to deprive him of his civil rights.

"The state has an enormous advantage over individuals, and for private citizens to give it more power is horrifying," Shaw said.

He was indicted in 1967 on a charge he participated in a bizarre conspiracy to assassinate the president. He was acquitted of the charge in 1969.

Yesterday, the U.S. Supreme Court apparently wrote the final chapter in the controversial case by upholding a lower court decision preventing Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison from prosecuting Shaw for perjury.

Garrison accused Shaw of perjury after the acquittal on the conspiracy charge. Garrison said Shaw lied when he denied knowing Lee Harvey Oswald or Dave Ferrie, named by Garrison, as Shaw's co-conspirators.

Shaw said he was confident the Supreme Court would uphold the lower court ruling, but "it was a load off my back to hear the decision."

Shaw, project director for the French Market renovation, has a \$5 million damage suit pending against Garrison and Truth and Consequences, a group of private citizens that contributed money to the prosecution of Shaw.

Shaw was critical of the judicial system, but he would not comment on questions about his feelings toward Garrison.

He said he is "delighted" the ordeal is over, but "disappointed" it took the judiciary so long to free him. He said it took a jury 55 minutes to free him, while it took the judicial system five years and eight months to do the same thing.

Shaw said his faith in the federal government was reinforced by its inter-

vention and protection of his rights.

"On the other hand," he said, "something has to be done to refine this cumbersome machine. Something has to be done to speed up the judiciary process."

The grand-jury system also drew Shaw's criticism. He said today's grand jury does not seem to be serving

its intended function. A district attorney, by serving as adviser to the grand jury, can present evidence that is certain to result in an indictment, he said.

Although he criticized the judicial system, he offered no concrete propos-

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als for improving it. "I honestly don't know," he said, adding that one alternative might be an expansion of the courts.

Shaw, terming himself a student of the Warren Commission report, said he does not doubt the commission's

findings. "I think people who say there are unanswered questions have no basis," he said.

He said "not one evidential fact" has been introduced to disclaim the Warren Commission's findings. "I believe what happened in Dallas essentially is what the Warren Commission said happened."



—States-Item Photo.

Clay Shaw