

NOV 5-1

The Shaw case: *finis*?

NOV 22 1972

Five years and eight months have passed since Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison inaugurated one of the most bizarre prosecutions this nation has ever seen.

Seeking to prove the involvement of businessman Clay L. Shaw in the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Mr. Garrison wove together a case of near storybook proportions, a case that a jury obliterated in 55 minutes of deliberation.

For reasons known only to him, DA Garrison pursued Clay Shaw even further, with a subsequent perjury charge, taken all the way to the United States Supreme Court.

This week the high court, in effect, affirmed lower court rulings that barred Mr. Garrison from further prosecution of Mr. Shaw on the perjury count.

In denying Mr. Garrison's peti-

tion, the Supreme Court apparently wrote the last page in a chronicle that most New Orleanians would like to forget. But the Shaw case must always remind us of the consequences involved in the abuse of power, especially in so powerful an office as that of district attorney.

Now in litigation is a charge by Mr. Shaw that Mr. Garrison and several of his associates violated Mr. Shaw's civil rights in the investigation. Judicial authorities will decide the validity of Mr. Shaw's claim.

In the meantime, the now-exonerated Clay Shaw has resumed a career in the civic life of this city as project director for the extensive renovation of the old French Market. That he chose, not only to remain in New Orleans after a five-year nightmare, but also to contribute to the city's future through the market renovation, is a tribute to the man.