

NEWS RELEASE

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ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD ACQUIRES PERSONAL PAPERS OF CLAY SHAW; ACQUITTED IN '69 FOR CONSPIRACY TO MURDER JFK

The Assassination Records Review Board, the independent federal agency overseeing the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, announced today that it has acquired the original personal papers of the late Clay Shaw, the New Orleans businessman charged with conspiracy to murder President Kennedy. Shaw was acquitted after a jury trial in 1969.

Shaw, who died in 1974, was charged as part of the Kennedy assassination investigation conducted by the late New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. The papers were kept by one of Shaw's friends until two weeks ago when he donated the seven boxes of materials to the Review Board.

"The Shaw papers will surely add another dimension to this particular chapter of the assassination story," said Judge John R. Tunheim, Board chair. "Because we had previously acquired records from District Attorney Garrison's office and one of Clay Shaw's defense attorney, the addition of the Shaw personal papers means we now have an even more complete picture of events that relate to New Orleans. All of these materials will enrich the historical record of the assassination for future generations."

Judge Tunheim made the announcement of the acquisition of the Shaw papers today at a hearing on H.R. 1553, which would authorize a one year extension for the Board, before the National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice Subcommittee, of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee. Tunheim highlighted for the Subcommittee an excerpt from Shaw's diary in which he recounted a pre-arrest interview with a prosecutor from Garrison's office. Shaw wrote:

I explained to Sciambra that I had not at any time had an opportunity to see Oswald, and had never met him under any other circumstances and added what turned out to be a very ironic remark that it was perhaps unfortunate that I did not because then I might possibly have been

a tiny footnote in history.

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A copy of the page from the Shaw diary released by the Review Board today is available from the Assassination Records Review Board, 600 E Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20530; telephone number: (202) 724-0088.

The entire collection of Shaw materials, which includes the diary, records from his criminal case, correspondence, business records, his passports, personal records and photographs, will eventually be available to the public as part of the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) facility in College Park, Maryland, after it has been processed by a NARA archivist.

The Assassination Records Review Board was established by the JFK Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994. The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.

The Review Board consists of the following members:

Honorable John R. Tunheim, Chair; U.S. District Court Judge, District of Minnesota.

Dr. Henry F. Graff; Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.

Dr. Kermit L. Hall; Dean, College of Humanities, and Professor of History at The Ohio State University.

Dr. William L. Joyce; Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University.

Dr. Anna K. Nelson; Distinguished Adjunct Historian in Residence at The American University.