

Subject: Article in LE DEVOIR on Garrison investigation
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Will District Attorney Garrison's investigation on Kennedy's
assassination lead to Montreal?

We know that Jim Garrison New Orleans District Attorney, ended up indicting Clay Shaw, retired army major and respected resident of the city, for plotting to assassinate J.F. Kennedy, with Lee Oswald and a certain Ferrie, who was also was supposed to be arraigned but recently died in some curious circumstances. A search in the home of Clay Shaw led to the finding of an amazing collection of whips, chains, handcuffs, masks and torture instruments. Did Shaw, a lifelong bachelor, and longtime manager of the commercial center - which Lee Oswald had distributed pro-Cuban tracts in 1963 - lead a double life, dissimulating behind the facade of one of the 35 most respected resident of the city, the personality of a provincial Marquis of Sade? The attorney Andrews confessed to the FBI that a mysterious character, named Clay Bertrand had called him right after Lee Oswald's arrest to ask him to defend Oswald. The same Clay Bertrand had in several occasions, financed the legal defense of a few homosexuals who had a brush with the Law. Are Clay Shaw and Clay Bertrand the same person? Shaw denies it but the new US State Secretary of Justice, Mr. Clark, reported that Clay Shaw had been 'interrogated by the FBI after President Kennedy's assassination. 40 pages of that interview remain secret and have not been handed to the New Orleans District Attorney for his examination.

However, now the affair takes some even stranger turns. The name Clay Shaw has just been found among those of the 11 directors of a company which, until 1962, had its headquarters in Montreal [illegible] in Rome called "Centro mondiale Commerciale" (World Commercial Center). The other directors of the board were Prince Gutierrez di Spadafora (State Secretary under Mussolini in 1936), whose son married the daughter of Schacht, Hitler's Treasury Secretary; Ferenz Nagy, the exiled leader of the Hungarian Peasant Party, who maintains with the CIA a relationship similar to the one existing between the CIA and the Cubans from Miami; three other Hungarians; Giuseppe Zigiotti, who was a member of the fascist "gerarcha" (hierarchy): Faruk Churabi, an Egyptian who ended up murdered, and L.H. Blumfield from Montreal.

Mr. Blumfield, a retired army major, served du in, World War II in the OSS, the precursor of the CIA, and is very well respected in Canada. He was at that time also the main stockholder of a company named "Permidex" [sic], headquartered in Switzerland and affiliated with the World Commercial Center in Rome. The other stockholders of Permidex [sic] were banks more or less fictitious, located in Liechtenstein; Miami Anatall Vaduz, De Famaco Vaduz and the Credit Bank of Geneva. Among the directors, we can notice the name Max Hagerman, director of the "National Zeitung", a newspaper specialized in anti-Communist diatribes. In any case, the Centro mondiale Commerciale and Permidex [sic] had some problems with the Italian and Swiss governments. Both companies moved very important funds, coming from uncertain origins to say the least, and not involved in any true commercial transaction.

They were banned from Switzerland and Italy in 1962 and settled in Johannesburg. At that time, the Swiss press had accused Permindex [sic] of having, among other things, financed Soustelle and the OAS actions. One of the directors of "The Centro" was Mr. Damello, the attorney of the royal Italian family, who was closely connected to the Italian Monarchist Party. One last peculiar detail: Clay Shaw has published in his youth a short story which was used for the script of the John Ford's Movie "[illegible] men without women".

Is Garrison on the tracks of J.F. Kennedy's assassins? It's too early to know. In any case, he seems to have discovered a surprising Pandora's box.

"The reds and the blacks", a book just published by Bill Atwood, who is now the director of the publication "LOOK" and who used to be one of the youngest and brightest among J.F. Kennedy's advisors (he was among other things, his ambassador in Guinea) open some new perspectives on the Dallas tragedy. Considered as one of the best American journalists, Bill Atwood says that in 1963, the Cuban ambassador in Guinea hinted that Fidel Castro wished to reconcile with the US and would accept, if needed, to make some concessions. Atwood relayed this to Averell Harriman and to Adlai Stevenson. The latter spoke to President Kennedy who authorized Atwood to get in touch with Charles Lechuga, the Cuban ambassador in the UN, "under the condition that it would be clear that the initiative was not coming from Washington". During their second meeting, Lechuga informed Atwood that "chances were that he would be soon invited to Havana". Robert Kennedy suggested that a discreet meeting in Mexico would be preferable. An American Journalist, Lisa Howard, from ABC, who had visited Cuba several times and who had interviewed Fidel Castro and Guevarra, was informed of the diplomatic move just initiated and that she could talk about it with Major Rene Vallejo, Fidel Castro's aide-de-camp. On October 31st, 1963, Vallejo announced to Lisa Howard that Fidel Castro wished to receive a US representative, under the condition that the visit would be kept discreet. On November 3rd, McGeorge Bundy told Lisa Howard that the State Department wanted to know what exactly Fidel Castro wanted to discuss before sending someone. The next day, Vallejo called Lisa Howard to inform her that Fidel Castro accepted that the meeting took place the way the Americans found it suitable. Che Guevarra, he added, would not attend it. In fact, Fidel Castro would come by himself. On November 19th, McGeorge Bundy told Atwood that the President wanted to talk to him right after his meeting with Lechuga and "as soon as he would have returned from Dallas". On November 22nd, J.F. Kennedy was assassinated. On November 23rd Lechuga informed Atwood that Fidel was ready to start the negotiations. McGeorge Bundy had him notified, and with good reasons, that "it had to be postponed for another time". On July 4th, 1965, Lisa Howard, who had become the apostle of the Cuban-American reconciliation and who had heard about the start of the thaw between Havana and Washington, died in East Hampton, New England, in mysterious circumstances. As in the Ferrie case, an empty bottle of sleeping pills had been found. Coincidence? Suicide? Accident? In any case, it all amounts to many deaths more or less all related to the death in Dallas.