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Judge Blocks Author In Move to Aid Shaw

NEW ORLEANS, La. (UPI)— Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. has blocked Saturday Evening Post author James Phelan from providing defense testimony prior to Clay L. Shaw's trial for conspiring to assassinate President John Kennedy.

Defense attorneys wanted Phelan to be permitted to swear, in a pre-trial deposition, that Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's star witness against Shaw had been prompted and prodded while under drugs and hypnosis to link Shaw with accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

The witness, Perry Raymond Russo, 25, of Baton Rouge, La., testified at a 4-day hearing in March that he attended a party in mid-September 1963 at which he allegedly heard Shaw, Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie discussing ways to go about assassinating Kennedy.

Garrison's office has denied Phelan's claims and has asked Phelan to repeat them before the New Orleans grand jury. Garrison's office did not want Phelan to give testimony on behalf of Shaw unless he first appears before the grand jury.

Haggerty said the defense

motion "isn't even close under Louisiana statutes."

In another development, the New Orleans grand jury has subpoenaed for May 10 a truck salesman who told the FBI that Lee Harvey Oswald may have been in New Orleans and not Dallas two weeks before Kennedy was assassinated.

The Warren Commission said Oswald left New Orleans Sept. 25, 1963 never to return, but Oscar W. Deslatte said a man calling himself "Oswald" priced trucks "a couple of weeks" before the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination.

Attorney G. Wray Gill, speaking for Deslatte, said Deslatte attached no importance to the questions the man and a large, swarthy companion asked on behalf of the "friends of Cuba," until after the assassination and the prominence of Oswald's name.

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