

Plot Hatching Related

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP)—Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's "confidential informant" told a 3-judge criminal district court panel Tuesday he heard Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw and David Ferrie plotting to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Perry Raymond Russo, 25, an insurance salesman from Baton Rouge, testified he was in Ferrie's apartment here in September

Nagging little question,
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ber 1963 and listened to a discussion of how to kill Kennedy and make a getaway.

Russo said the plot involved "triangulation of crossfire," diversionary shooting, a possible flight to Cuba and the sacrificing of one man as a scapegoat to allow the others to escape.

Kennedy was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963—two months after the alleged meeting in Ferrie's cluttered apartment not far from New Orleans' elegant Garden District.

THE WARREN COMMISSION said that Oswald was the lone assassin and that there was no credible evidence of any conspiracy.

Of the three alleged conspirators, only Shaw is alive. Oswald was killed by Jack Ruby two days after the assassination, and Ferrie died in bed Feb. 22.

Shaw has denied taking part in any conspiracy to kill the President, and the attorney general in Washington said the FBI investigated Shaw late in 1963 and cleared him of any link to the assassination.

Russo, a part-time college student who lives with a younger cousin near the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, was described as "a nice young kid" by a neighbor. A fellow student at LSU said he was "a quiet type who is interested in politics."

Russo was first publicly connected with the Garrison probe on Feb. 24, when he told reporters he knew Ferrie.

Under the questioning by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, Russo said Oswald was introduced

to him as "Leon Oswald" and Shaw as "Clem Bertrand."

Shown a photograph by Garrison, Russo identified Leon as Lee Harvey Oswald—the man the Warren Commission named as the assassin.

Asked if Clem Bertrand was in the courtroom, Russo pointed at Shaw.

The 54-year-old Shaw, calmly smoking a cigarette, didn't move.

RUSSO SAID he first saw Lee Harvey Oswald in Ferrie's apartment, and that Oswald was "wiping or cleaning a rifle, bolt action. It had a sight on it for hunting."

Russo said he had seen Bertrand in May, 1962, when President Kennedy dedicated a new wharf in New Orleans, and said "New Orleans must trade or fade."

"I was in school," Russo said. "The President was coming down to make a speech. At that time I saw Bertrand. While the President was speaking, I was looking around. Bertrand was one of the few not looking at the President."

Police estimated 20,000 persons attended the dedication.

Russo said that after he contacted Garrison following Ferrie's death, the district attorney took him to "a house on Dauphine Street." Shaw lives at 1313 Dauphine St. "He stuck his head out the door, and I said, 'that's the man,'" Russo said, referring to Bertrand.

The hearing recessed at 3:30 p.m. until

10 a.m. Wednesday. The defense issued subpoenas for Russo's school and employment records.

The rare 3-judge criminal district court panel was called to hear the preliminary case and decide whether there is enough evidence to warrant formal charge and trial for Shaw, now retired.

SHAW WAS ARRESTED in Garrison's office on March 1. He was booked—but never formally charged—with conspiring to kill the President. Such procedure is common under Louisiana law.

Shaw, onetime Army major, was freed on \$10,000 bond shortly after his arrest.

Ferrie, a former airline pilot, was found dead in his bed Feb. 22. The coroner ruled death resulted from natural causes.

After leading Russo through a brief summary of his educational background and present job, Garrison asked if he knew Ferrie.

Russo said he not only knew Ferrie but had an "open book invitation" to visit Ferrie's apartment at any time.

He said that it was in the summer of 1963 that Ferrie "indicated to me that he was obsessed with Kennedy." This drew an immediate objection as being a conclusion reached by the witness. The court sustained the objection.

"Don't tell us your conclusions," resumed Garrison. "What did Ferrie say to you in regard to Kennedy?"

This drew a new objection, also sustained.



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