

## Assassination Probe

# Big Little Question Unanswered

By THOMAS K. HARVEY  
NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — One of the biggest little unanswered questions in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of an alleged New Orleans conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy is just one word long and remains unanswered.

The question is: why?

Here are the facts:

Clay L. Shaw, a 54-year-old New Orleansian of considerable stature, culture and intelligence, is accused of conspiring to murder Kennedy.

PERRY R. RUSSO, a 25-year-old Baton Rouge, La., insurance salesman says Shaw, whom he said he knew as "Clem Bertrand," plotted with assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie to kill Kennedy.

Shaw, an open admirer of John F. Kennedy, was managing director of the International Trade Mart here at the time of Kennedy's assassination. In his job as director, Shaw personally, and the Trade Mart had everything to gain from Kennedy's continued existence.

Kennedy's Alliance for Progress, if nothing else, had opened new vistas for the Trade Mart. But there were other Kennedy inroads into Latin America, too.

The big little question begs even more when applied to Rus-

so. Why did Russo wait nearly three and one-half years to come forward with his information?

Why did Russo not come forward when Ferrie's name was linked with Garrison's assassination investigation as early as Feb. 17?

Why did Russo wait eight days —until after Ferrie died of a brain hemorrhage in his New Orleans apartment — to volunteer his story?

WHY DID RUSSO not report immediately after the assassination to the FBI, the Secret Service or others participating in the Warren Commission investigation of the assassination.

There is no record that he either offered information or was questioned.

The same question goes unanswered with respect to Raymon Cummings and Clyde Limbaugh. Cummings, a former Dallas cab driver, told Garrison he drove Ferrie and Oswald to Jack Ruby's night club prior to the assassination. Everyone knows who Ruby was—the killer of Oswald.

Limbaugh, who describes himself as a singer, said he was working for Ruby and saw Ruby, Oswald and J. D. Tippet—the policeman slain by Oswald after the assassination — together in Ruby's office a week before the assassination.

Why did Cummings and Limbaugh wait until now to come forward?

Limbaugh said in a telephone interview he did not think the information important at the time of the assassination.

Why is it important now?

## Russo Says He Heard Of Oswald in Telecast

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Perry Russo, the "confidential informant" in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, told a television interviewer he had never heard of Lee Harvey Oswald until he was linked with the presidential assassination.

WDSU-TV of New Orleans broadcast an interview Tuesday night it made with Russo shortly after the death of David Ferrie two weeks ago. Garrison described Ferrie as a central figure in the assassination probe.

"I never heard of Oswald until on television (until) the assassination," Russo said in the interview. He said Ferrie never mentioned Oswald's name.

Russo, a 25-year-old insurance salesman now living in Baton Rouge, told a three-judge state court earlier Tuesday that he heard Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw and David Ferrie plotting to assassinate President Kennedy.

Russo also said in the interview that "Ferrie was obsessed with Kennedy and the idea of what he was doing to Cuba or Castro."

"Quite frequently he (Ferrie) talked in general terms and not specifically about Kennedy though about how easy it would be to assassinate a President of the United States because of the fact that he was in the public view so much and unprotected more or less and there were so many people—the availability of exit and the fact that he (Ferrie) could fly a plane to get out of the country. And he (Ferrie) jokingly posed the

question that if he and I could do it . . . it could be done," Russo said in the interview.

His testimony came at a preliminary hearing where Garrison must show probable cause why he should be allowed to proceed with a trial against Shaw, 54-year-old retired International Trade Mart executive.

Garrison arrested Shaw and booked him with conspiracy to commit murder.

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