

Tolson _____
 DeLoach _____
 Mohr _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

Handwritten signatures and initials:
 [Illegible signature]
 [Illegible signature]
 [Illegible signature]

*Assassination of
 President John F. Kennedy*

UPI-110

(KENNEDY ASSASSINATION)
 NEW ORLEANS--A DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR CLAY L. SHAW TODAY LAUNCHED AN ATTACK PEGGED TO GOD AND PSYCHIATRY TO TRY TO DISCREDIT A WITNESS WHO IDENTIFIED SHAW AS A CONSPIRATOR IN A PLOT TO KILL PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

ATTORNEY F. IRVIN DYMOND QUESTIONED BATON ROUGE, LA., INSURANCE SALESMAN PERRY R. RUSSO ABOUT HIS BELIEF IN GOD, PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT HE UNDERWENT IN THE PAST, AND HIS CONDUCT AS A HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENT.

THE 25-YEAR-OLD RUSSO WAS REVEALED DURING YESTERDAY'S OPENING SESSION OF A PRELIMINARY HEARING FOR SHAW AS DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT" TO A CONSPIRACY AGAINST KENNEDY TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT WAS ASSASSINATED IN DALLAS NOV. 22, 1963.

62-1041060-A

RECORDED
 1967 MAR 16

*File
 6-11-67*

55 MAR 17 1967

62-1041060

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

RUSO TESTIFIED THAT SHAW, 54, FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL TRADE MART, CONSPIRED WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND DAVID W. FERRIE TO KILL KENNEDY IN SEPTEMBER OF 1963. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WERE TIGHTENED DRASTICALLY INSIDE AND OUT-SIDE OF THE COURTROOM TODAY BECAUSE OF WHAT POLICE CALLED "THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS."

DEPUTIES SEARCHED EVERYONE ENTERING THE COURTROOM. AS RUSO TOOK THE STAND TODAY FOR CROSS-EXAMINATION DRYMOND APPROACHED THE WITNESS CHAIR AND ASKED POINT BLANK: "DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?"

"IT WOULD DEPEND ON DEFINITION," RUSO SAID.

"HOW DO YOU DEFINE GOD?" DRYMOND ASKED.

"I DEFINE GOD AS THE ENTITY OF THE UNIVERSE," SAID RUSO.

DRYMOND ASKED RUSO WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OATH HE TOOK TO TELL THE TRUTH IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

"IT WOULD BE TO TELL THE TRUTH..." RUSO REPLIED.

ASKED BY DRYMOND WHETHER HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS WERE UNUSUAL, RUSO REPLIED: "I DON'T KNOW THAT MINE ARE ANY MORE PECULIAR THAN ANYONE ELSE'S."

RUSO, UNDER QUESTIONING BY DRYMOND, ALSO TESTIFIED HIS FATHER AND MOTHER DID NOT GET ALONG WELL. HE SAID HE THOUGHT HIS FATHER HAD BEEN MARRIED PREVIOUSLY BUT WAS NOT SURE.

"HAVE YOU EVER UNDERGONE PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT?" DRYMOND THEN ASKED ABRUPTLY.

RUSO REPLIED HE HAD FOR PERHAPS TWO YEARS, "MAYBE A YEAR AND A HALF," FROM ABOUT MID-1959 TO LATE 1960.

"THE CONSULTATIONS... ENDED IN LATE 60 OR EARLY '61," RUSO SAID. RUSO SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED PERSONAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS WITH PSYCHIATRISTS DURING 1967 BUT NOT ON A PROFESSIONAL BASIS.

"WHEN I FELT I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT PREVIOUS THINGS IN MY PAST THAT HE (PRESUMABLY HIS PSYCHIATRIST) KNEW ABOUT," RUSO SAID, HE WOULD EITHER CALL OR TALK TO THE DOCTOR. HE SAID HE LAST REMEMBERED SEEING A PSYCHIATRIST AS LATE AS NOVEMBER, 1965.

3/15--EGWRRPES