

# JFK 'Plot' Witness Newly Hypnotized

*Assassination of  
President John F.  
Kennedy*

NEW ORLEANS, March 17 (AP)—The coroner of Orleans Parish (county) testified today that Perry R. Russo, the state witness who says he heard Clay Shaw conspiring to kill President Kennedy, had been hypnotized in his office two days before the current courtroom proceedings began.

Dr. Nicholas Chetta said Russo, a 25-year-old insurance salesman, underwent hypnosis through the use of sodium pentothal on Feb. 23 at Mercy Hospital, on March 2 in the office of Assistant District Attorney Charles Ward, and on March 12 in the coroner's office.

Russo told the three-judge criminal district court panel Tuesday that he heard Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie talking in September 1963 of how to kill President John F. Kennedy.

Alvin Oser, an assistant to District Attorney Jim Garrison, began questioning Chetta about details of Russo's comments while under hypnosis. The defense objected.

"Your honor, he's getting out of the realm of sanity of this witness and is trying to bolster the credibility of the witness and I object," said F. Irvin Dymond.

The preliminary hearing was called by Garrison to determine if sufficient evidence exists to take Shaw, a 54-year-old retired executive, to trial.

Garrison has stated he will prove that an assassination conspiracy was hatched in New Orleans and culminated in the death of Kennedy.

### BRINGS RECORDS

At the start of today's hearing, C. W. Johnson, district director of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, brought two documents into the court after being subpoenaed by the defense.

He had a record of a Cuban named Manuel Garcia Gonzales who entered this country as a refugee and another of a Manuel Garcia Gonzales who came to the United States as a temporary visitor. It was not clear if the records pertained to the same individual.

53 *He testified that he had*  
*March 2, 1967*

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Julio Busneda or ~~Busneda~~ the other name the defense had requested information on. The court allowed the records to be made part of the evidence.

Earlier Russo had testified that two Spanish-speaking men were at a "party" in Ferrie's apartment the night he heard the conspiracy. He said he thought their names were Manuel and Julio.

Today is Shaw's 54th birthday. The tall, distinguished-looking former director of New Orleans International Trade Mart arrived for the fourth day of the hearing apparently in good spirits.

### TRUTH SERUM

Chetta was questioned by defense attorney William Wegmann as to the reliability of sodium pentothal as a "truth serum."

Q. Under sodium pentothal, isn't it true that not only are the inhibitions as to expression of fact existing, but doesn't there appear fantasies as well?  
A. Yes. It is up to the man doing the test to tell whether the person is lying or speaking in fantasy.

Q. You are not a psychiatrist, are you Dr. Chetta?  
A. No.

Q. Hasn't there been some question as to the reliability as to facts gotten under sodium pentothal?

A. It is not a fact. Sodium

pentothal has been used quite often by psychiatrists. Some psychiatrists like the electric shock treatment and others used barbiturates. Doctors, like lawyers, have different choices—the one they think fits.

Q. According to my notes, you gave Russo the drug the same day that you questioned him. How long did you talk with him?

A. About an hour.

Q. Is this the only time that you saw Russo?

A. Yes, sir.

Chetta said Russo was given sodium pentothal to induce hypnosis. Garrison said before the hearing that his "confidential informant" had been given sodium pentothal to determine if he could corroborate statements made earlier of the alleged conspiracy talk.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Wick \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

- The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_
- Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Post \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- World Journal Tribune (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- People's World \_\_\_\_\_

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