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

The Washington Daily News, Tuesday, February

JFK Plot a 'Bull Session?'

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 11 (UPI)—The all-male jury in the Clay L. Shaw trial has the opinion of the star state witness that the presidential assassination plotting of which Mr. Shaw is accused could as easily have been "an inconsequential bull session" as a serious scheme.

The defense got in that lick later yesterday in the trial of the 55-year-old retired businessman on charges of conspiring to murder President John F. Kennedy.

It came shortly before adjournment in the fourth day of testimony.

Perry Raymond Russo, 27, book salesman, sometime cab driver, and sports buff who has provided the principal public evidence in the two-year battle of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison to prove the Warren report erred in saying there was no evidence of conspiracy, said he had even told people it could have been a bull session.

Mr. Russo testified for the state of his friendship with a bizarre character — "he was prone toward the fantastic" — named David W. Ferrie who in the summer of 1963 "became obsessed with the murder" of President Kennedy. He said he had heard Mr. Ferrie say "we will kill him — it won't be long" several times and wasn't sure if he really meant it.

In mid-September, 1963, in Mr. Ferrie's apartment, Mr. Russo testified, he listened while Mr. Ferrie, 49, a flying instructor with a body devoid of hair thru disease, did most of the talking in the alleged plot.

Talking with him, Mr. Russo testified, were his roommate Lee Harvey Oswald, whom the witness knew as "Leon," and the dignified and culturally inclined Mr. Shaw, who was introduced as Clem Bertland.

He said they discussed a triangulation of cross-fire, the necessity of a scapegoat, diversionary

Assassination of Pres. John F. Kennedy

R. DeLoach
Taylor
File 5 - JAC

- The Washington Post _____
- Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News P.7
- The Evening Star (Washington) _____
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Sun (Baltimore) _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Date 2/11/69

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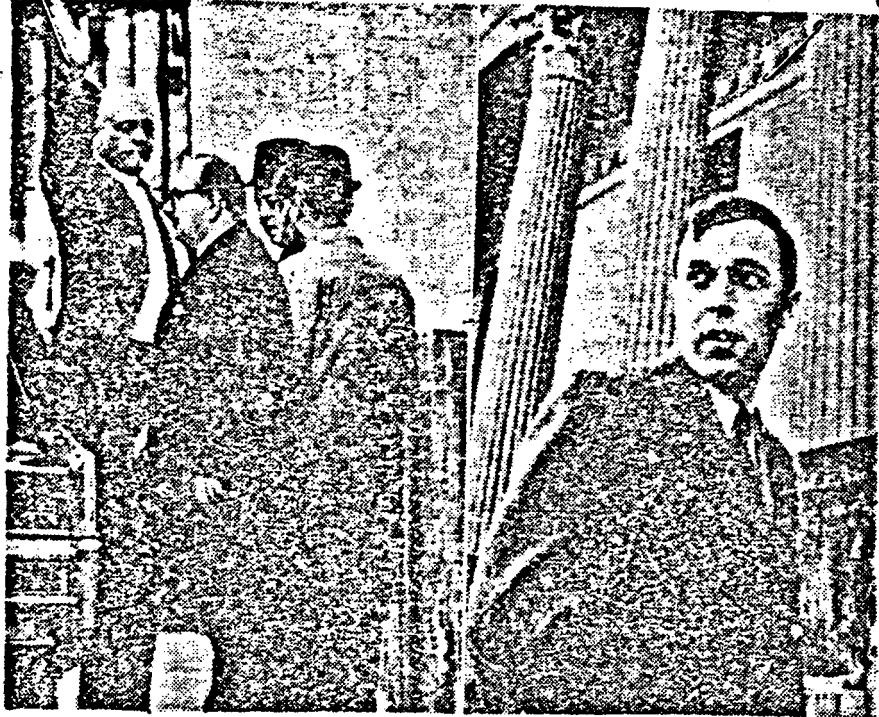
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—UPI Photo

At left, Clay Shaw waves to cameramen on his way to court. Right, the state's star witness, Perry Russo, enters court building.

shots, escape by air and setting up of alibis by being in cities other than the murder site. On cross examination by defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond, Mr. Russo said he had not been there all the time in the 3 to 4 hour session.

Under Mr. Dymond's questioning, Mr. Russo said Mr. Ferrie "was screwy but sharp — a paradox of a personality; he spoke 11 languages and claimed to have five degrees, and you'd think he'd be doing something better. He was prone toward the spectacular."

"You mean to infer that Mr. Ferrie was a little on the crazy side?" Mr. Dymond asked.

"I've always thought so," Mr. Russo replied.

Mr. Dymond read from a newspaper interview

with Mr. Russo when the latter first became involved in the case nearly two years ago which said that "Russo said he did not take any of Ferrie's statements seriously until he read" of Mr. Garrison's investigation.

Mr. Ferrie died of a brain hemorrhage four days after Mr. Garrison announced his probe.

"Is it not a fact that the conversation (of the alleged plotters) could just as well have been an inconsequential bull session as it could have been anything serious?" Mr. Dymond asked.

"Yes," Mr. Russo replied.

"Is it not a fact that you have told people that it could well have been?"

"Yes."

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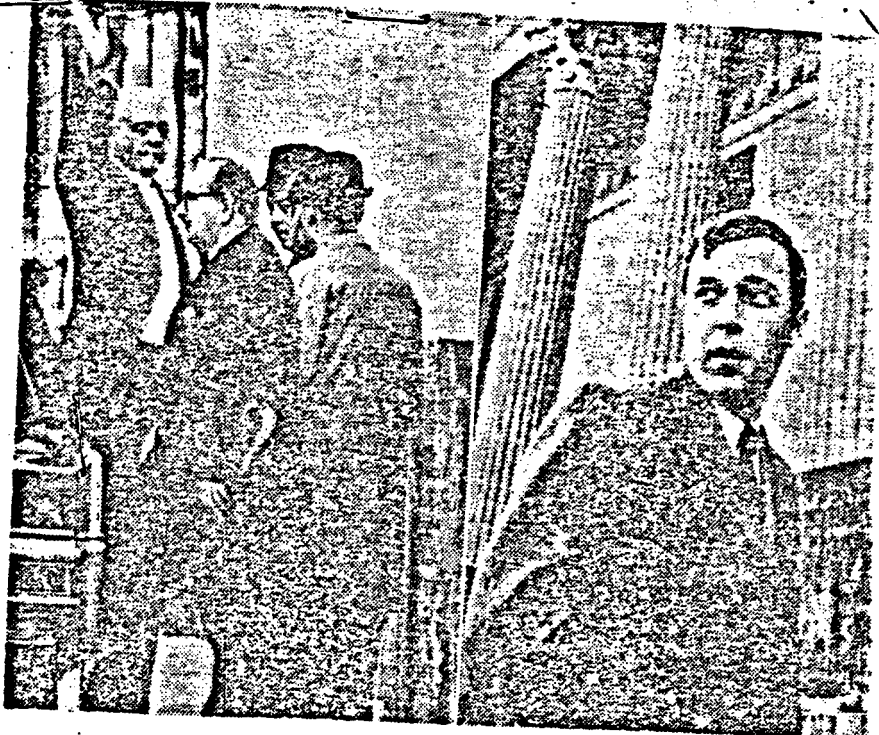
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46 FEB 18 1969

54 FEB 14 1969

File 5-1113