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- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
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Clay Shaw waves as he arrives for fourth week of his New Orleans conspiracy trial.

United International People's World

# Witness Tells of 'Bull Session,' JFK P

## SHAW, From A1

On direct examination, Russo said Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie talked about crossfire, diversionary shots, escape by airplane and alibi.

He said on cross-examination that he did not know whether to take the matter seriously and did nothing about it until Ferrie died in February, 1967.

Russo testified that Ferrie was obsessed with assassinations, and had mentioned former President Eisenhower, the president of Mexico, and later, Kennedy. He said he thought Ferrie was "a little crazy."

Chief defense counsel F. Irvin Dymond pressed Russo. There were these exchanges:

Q. Isn't it a fact you didn't really take this seriously?

A. Initially, you couldn't believe Ferrie and you couldn't not believe him.

Q. Didn't this have all the characteristics of a bull session?

A. Every characteristic. Russo said he did not mention any assassination conspiracy in his first contact with District Attorney Jim Garrison's office in February, 1967. Neither did he mention it when subsequently interviewed in the same month by

Andrew Schambra, an assistant district attorney, he said.

"I didn't make that all clear to Mr. Schambra," Russo said. "All I told him was that there was a meeting at which a bunch of people were running around saying they were going to shoot Kennedy."

After listening to the assassination talk in 1963, Russo testified, no one swore him to secrecy or threatened him if he didn't keep quiet.

Russo said he had great difficulty in identifying a photograph of Oswald as the man known as Ferrie's roommate at the party. Russo said the roommate had whiskers and several days' growth of beard. He said repeated attempts by an artist to make an Oswald photo into a perfect likeness failed.

But he said Oswald, Ferrie and Shaw were the participants in the 1963 meeting at Ferrie's apartment. Russo, repeating testimony he gave at a 1967 hearing after hypnosis "refreshed" his mem-

ory, said Shaw was using the name "Clem Bertrand." In the courtroom, Russo pointed to Shaw as the man called Bertrand.

The meeting, Russo said, took place in Ferrie's New Orleans apartment about three months before Kennedy was shot at death. The Warren Commission in its official investigation concluded that Oswald alone was the assassin.

Assistant District Attorney James Alcock questioned Russo:

Q. What conversation took place in the presence of the defendant?

A. Well, Ferrie carried around a bunch of clippings with him . . . I could see Kennedy's name on them . . .

Q. And what was David Ferrie saying?

A. Well, he paced back and forth on the floor. He carried the clippings . . . There was some kind of Latin, or Spanish, recording playing . . . He was walking up and down and telling how this projected assassination team would carry

out the assassination of Kennedy. He told them about triangulation of crossfire. (Russo demonstrated, holding up three fingers.)

"He (Ferrie) said perhaps there would be a diversionary shot . . . and the other two would shoot for the kill or the direct hit," Russo said.

"He said the diversionary shot if fired would be fired to attract attention," Russo added.

Q. And the last two shots. They were to be fired simultaneously?

A. They were. (Russo testified that Ferrie suggested escaping to Brazil by way of Mexico.)

Q. Did the defendant say anything?

A. At that time, the defendant objected to that. He said it wouldn't be possible to fly out of the area.

Q. Well, then was anything said?

A. Oswald told him—Bertrand—to shut up. He said,

"Ferrie knows what I'm talking about. He's a pilot. Russo said the three about alibi. He talked of 'going to Russo identified both and Ferrie from put into evidence by

The witness said he first met Oswald a apartment, Oswald whiskers . . . perhaps four days' growth." The first time he saw introduced as "Ferrie." Oswald was polishing a rifle while the prosecution, Russo was similar to the one had.

Russo testified the days after the meeting, he visited again and Oswald stuff all packed up. He was leaving town said, or Oswald said, mentioned, that Oswald going to Houston," Ru-