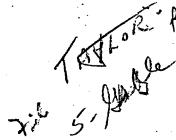




ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY **NOVEMBER 22, 1963** DALLAS, TEXAS



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

Russo Sane in 1963, Shaw Trial

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — The efforts to question Russo's stathree men discussed ways of prosecution read to the Clay L. bility.

The defense yesterday brought alibis. Russo was legally sane in Sep-tember 1963, when he allegedly tion by telephone as late as 1965. witnessed a plot to kill President John F. Kennedy.

District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. permitted the reading of testimony by Dr. Nicholas J. Chetta, who died since he testified in a prelimi-nary hearing in March 1967. The testimony was read over vigorous objections by the defense that a 2-year-old medical opinion does not apply today.

Russo, the state's top witness, killing Kennedy were discussed. But yesterday, under cross-examination, he said the talks could have been "a bull session" and that he never heard Shaw agree to any killing.

Shaw is charged with conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie, 40, a flying instructor, to assassinate Kenne-

former coroner, now dead, that out Russo had been under psy-star witness Perry Raymond chiatric treatment in the late

1963.

In a two-day- cross-examination, Russo said he did not know whether to take the conversation in 1963 as a real plot or as "shooting the breeze," that he did not think it was seritestified Monday that he attend- ous enough to report to police. ed a meeting in which plans for and that he had never referred to the participants as "conspira-tors."

"You say you sat in on a conspiracy meeting, in which Os-wald participated, and then saw his picture on television after the assassination and didn't say anything about it?" asked de-

credibility, but to rebut defense apartment there in which the Russo, who now says he is

Most of the talk was done, he said, by Ferrie, who said "we'll kill him." He said Ferrie also talked of killing Fidel Castro.

Chetta's testimony said that as of 1967 Russo filled all requirements of legal sanity. In an answer to a hypothetical question, the doctor said in his opinion Russo was also sane in 1963 er all three said they would do it and would do it this (certain) way."

He told Dymond he had never used the word "conspirator" about Shaw or the others.

Dymond asked him about a conversation he had with Edward O'Donnel, a police lie de-tector man, in June 1967, while not under test. Shaw had been arrested the previous March, and Russo had testified in a hearing about the murder talk.

Russo told Dymond he had stated to O'Donnel he was under heavy pressures from reporters and authorities about his tale.

anything about it?" asked delease altorney F. Irvin Dymond meavy pressures from reporters and authorities about his tale.

State to U Donnel ne was under fense attorney F. Irvin Dymond meavy pressures from reporters and authorities about his tale.

No," said Russo, "I never said anything about a conspiration of the court the state was not submitting Chetta's 1967 testimony to buttress Russo's that he was present part of the testimony to buttress Russo's credibility, but to rebut defense apartment there in which the Russo who now saw he is

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
The Sun (Baltimore)
The Daily World
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Examiner (Washington)

62FEB25196

NOT RECORDED 46 FEB 20 1969

"100 percent sure" Shaw is the man introduced to him as "Clem Bertrand" at the party, said the explanation for the answer was "the pressures at the time, with all those people threatening me."

"Did you tell O'Donnel that if you had to give a yes or no answer you'd have to say Shaw was not there?" Dymond sked. "In essence," replied Russo. "But it was this pressure again."

"Is it not the fact that he asked you whether the conversation at Ferrie's apartment sounded like a legitimate plot to assassinate Kennedy, and you state it did not?"

"Var with an explanation:

"Yes—with an explanation:
O'Donnel and I talked a great
deal about Ferrie being prone
toward the fantastic, the spectacular."

"Did you," asked Dymond,
"volunteer to him the information that it appeared to you 'like another bull session, like they always have."
"That's acceptable," replied Russo. "I used the words 'shooting the breeze.' I don't use 'bull session.' But again it's with the same explanation—you didn't know Ferrie and some of the things he would claim. The same as I told you yesterday, he was a paradox as a man."