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Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

BY H.D. QUIGG
 NEW ORLEANS (UPI)--IT WAS FALSTAFF CONTRITE. AT THE END OF AN AMAZING AFTERNOON IN COURT, A ROLY-POLY MAN ADMITTED HE MADE THE WHOLE THING UP.
 "CLAY BERTRAND WAS A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION," DEAN ANDREWS SAID TUESDAY. "I'VE BEEN CARRYING ON A FARCE."
 ANDREWS, WEARING GREEN SUNGLASSES WHILE TESTIFYING FOR THE DEFENSE AT THE TRIAL OF CLAY SHAW FOR CONSPIRACY IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, HAD NO EXPLANATION FOR HIS BEHAVIOR EXCEPT:
 "ONCE YOU'VE MADE A FOOL OF YOURSELF, YOU'RE STUCK WITH IT."
 ANDREWS' SHOCKING TESTIMONY WAS IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO THAT HE GAVE THE WARREN COMMISSION. HE TOLD THE COMMISSION A MAN NAMED "CLAY BERTRAND" CALLED HIM THE DAY AFTER KENNEDY WAS MURDERED IN DALLAS AND ASKED HIM TO REPRESENT LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN. TUESDAY HE SAID HE MADE "IT ALL UP. NOBODY HAD CALLED AND ASKED HIM TO DEFEND OSWALD. HE DECIDED TO DO IT HIMSELF, AND PULLED THE NAME BERTRAND FROM HIS MEMORY OF A "FAG WEDDING."
 ANDREWS SUMMED UP IN A LONELY MAN'S SENTENCE HIS SELF-ADMITTED "FARCE."
 "I DON'T HAVE ANY EXPLANATION, MR. ALCOCK--ONCE YOU'VE MADE A FOOL OF YOURSELF YOU'RE STUCK WITH IT."
 JAMES L. ALCOCK IS THE COURTROOM ENGINEER OF DISNOT RECORDED JIM GARRISON'S ATTEMPT TO SEND CLAY L. SHAW TO PRISON ON A CHARGE OF USING THE NAME CLAY OR CLEM BERTRAND WHILE PLOTTING THE 1969 ASSASSINATION WITH OSWALD AND DAVID W. FERRIE.
 CALLED BY THE DEFENSE, ANDREWS TESTIFIED HE HAD NEVER KNOWN SHAW, WHO CERTAINLY WAS NOT "BERTRAND", HAD KNOWN FERRIE BUT NEVER HEARD HIM NOR OSWALD MENTION SHAW, NOR HAD HEARD FERRIE MENTION OSWALD.
 ALCOCK ON CROSS EXAMINATION TORE INTO HIM ABOUT HIS "LIES" ABOUT BERTRAND TO THE WARREN COMMISSION IN 1964 AND TO THREE SESSIONS OF THE GRAND JURY HERE. ANDREWS WAS CONVICTED IN AUGUST, 1967, OF PERJURY IN A CASE BASED ON INCONSISTENCIES IN HIS GRAND JURY TESTIMONY. HE HAS APPEALED TO THE STATE SUPREME COURT.
 NEAR DAY'S END, ANDREWS SAID: "CLAY BERTRAND WAS A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION--A COVER THAT I ASSUMED IN NOVEMBER, 1963, WHEN I WAS QUESTIONED BY REGIS KENNEDY OF THE FBI, A FIASCO THAT I HAD CONTINUED EVER SINCE..." HIS MOON FACE WAS STERN AND HIS VOICE ROSE:

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"UP UNTIL NOW!"
GARRISON HAD INTRODUCED TESTIMONY THAT TWO YEARS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION SHAW, RETIRED BUSINESSMAN, HAD SIGNED AN AIRLINE V.I.P. ROOM GUEST REGISTER AS CLAY BERTRAND. THE DEFENSE CALLED A HANDWRITING EXPERT TODAY TO REBUT THAT TESTIMONY.

ALCOCK ACCUSED ANDREWS OF LYING TO THE WARREN COMMISSION.
"I DIDN'T TELL A DELIBERATE LIE," HE REPLIED. "I MIGHT HAVE OVERLOADED MY MOUTH FROM THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A WITNESS. THE ONLY EXPLANATION I CAN GIVE IS MY MOUTH WENT AHEAD OF MY BRAIN. I DON'T CALL IT A LIE. I CALL IT A HUFFIN' AND PUFFIN'..."

"AND UNDER OATH," INTERJECTED ALCOCK.
"I STARTED IT AND I COULDN'T QUIT IT...CARRYING ON THE FARCE, THE COVER, THE WHIPLASH--AND HERE I SIT."

JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY ASKED WHY ANDREWS HAD NOT PICKED SOME NAME LIKE JOE BROWN OR BILL SMITH.

"OF ALL NAMES I HAD TO PICK THAT ONE," SAID ANDREWS. "I HAD GONE INTO A RESTAURANT WHERE AT A WEDDING EVERYBODY WAS DRINKING AND EATING FREE SANDWICHES AND I WAS INTRODUCED TO A PERSON I ALREADY KNEW WAS GENE DAVIS--'MEET CLAY BERTRAND,' JUST LIKE THAT--EVERYBODY BUST OUT LAUGHING."

"IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER I'D TOLD THE FBI JOHN JONES. I KNEW IT WAS DAVIS AND A JOKE. WHY, I'VE BEEN INTRODUCED AS ALGONQUIN J. CALHOUN."

"WOULD IT BE A FAIR STATEMENT TO SAY WE COULD TAKE YOUR ENTIRE WARREN COMMISSION TESTIMONY AND THROW IT IN THE ASH CAN--ALL OF IT NOW WAS A BUNCH OF BULL?" ASKED ALCOCK.

"THERE'S PAGES AND PAGES OF BULL," ANDREWS SAID. "ONE PART WAS SQUARE, ABOUT OSWALD BEING IN MY OFFICE. BUT I WAS THE FIRST CRITIC OF THE WARREN REPORT. I DIDN'T WAIT FIVE YEARS TO HOP ON THE GRAVY TRAIN. I TOLD PEOPLE OSWALD WAS INCAPABLE (OF THE CRIME) AND SO WAS HIS EQUIPMENT (THE RIFLE)."

WHEN BOTH SIDES HAD ENDED, ANDREWS SAT THERE A MOMENT WITH HIS ARMS FULLY EXTENDED SO HIS HANDS COULD CLASP EACH OTHER ACROSS HIS ENORMOUS STOMACH AND THEN SAID: "CAN I GO, JUDGE?" HAGGERTY NODDED.

ANDREWS WIPED HIS RIGHT FOREFINGER ACROSS HIS BROW.

"WHEW," HE SAID.

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