0-19 (Rev. 7-17-68)



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

Shaw Trial Farce Admitted

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 26 40PB— 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 yesterday. "I've been carrying on a farce."

Mr. 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."

Mr. 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 President Kennedy was murdered in Dallas and asked him to represent Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin.

Yesterday, 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."

James L. Alcock is the courtroom engineer of Dist. Atty. 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 assassination with Oswald and David W. Ferrie.

Called by the defense, Mr. Andrews testified he had never known Mr. Shaw, who certainly was

not "Bertrand," had known Ferrie but never heard him nor Oswald mention Mr. Shaw, nor had heard Ferrie mention Oswald.

Mr. 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. Mr. 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, Mr. Andrews said: "Bertrand was a figment of my imagination — a cover that I assumed in November, 4963, 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:

"Up until now!"

Mr. Garrison had introduced testimony that two years after the assassination Mr. Shaw, retired businessman, had signed an airline VIP room guest register as Clay Bertrand. The defense called a handwriting expert today to rebut that testimony.

When both sides had ended, Mr. 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?" The judge nodded.

Mr. Andrews wiped his right forelinger across his brow.

"Whew," he said

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