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Russo Says He Heard Of Oswald in Telecast

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Perry Russo, the "confidential informant" in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, told a television interviewer he had never heard of Lee Harvey Oswald until he was linked with the presidential assassination.

WDSU-TV of New Orleans broadcast an interview Tuesday night it made with Russo shortly after the death of David Ferrie two weeks ago. Garrison described Ferrie as a central figure in the assassination probe.

"I never heard of Oswald until on television (AHH) the assassination," Russo said in the interview. He said Ferrie never mentioned Oswald's name.

Russo, a 25-year-old insurance salesman now living in Baton Rouge, told a three-judge state court earlier Tuesday that he heard Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw and David Ferrie plotting to assassinate President Kennedy.

Russo also said in the interview that "Ferrie was obsessed with Kennedy and the idea of what he was doing to Cuba or Castro."

"Quite frequently he (Ferrie) talked in general terms and not specifically about Kennedy though about how easy it would be to assassinate a President of the United States because of the fact that he was in the public view so much and unprotected more or less and there were so many people—the availability of exit and the fact that he (Ferrie) could fly a plane to get out of the country. And he (Ferrie) jokingly posed the

question that if he and I could do it . . . it could be done," Russo said in the interview.

His testimony came at a preliminary hearing where Garrison must show probable cause why he should be allowed to proceed with a trial against Shaw, 34-year-old retired International Trade Mart executive.

Garrison arrested Shaw and booked him with conspiracy to commit murder.

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