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UPI-23

(KENNEDY ASSASSINATION) *of Dallas & Kennedy*

NEW ORLEANS--THE LATEST FIGURE THRUST INTO DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S KENNEDY ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION MAINTAINS THAT HE NEVER HEARD THE NAME LEE HARVEY OSWALD UNTIL NOV. 22, 1963.

LAYTON MARTENS, 24, A FORMER ROOMMATE OF ONE OF THE ALLEGED PLOTTERS AGAINST PRESIDENT KENNEDY, OPENLY CHALLENGES STATEMENTS MADE BY GARRISON'S STAR WITNESS, PERRY R. RUSSO.

RUSSO, 25, A BATON ROUGE, LA., INSURANCE SALESMAN, TESTIFIED AT THE PRELIMINARY HEARING THAT HE HEARD CLAY SHAW, THE LATE DAVID W. FERRIE, AND OSWALD PLOT TO KILL KENNEDY. SHAW WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INDICTED FOR CONSPIRACY.

BUT MARTENS, COMMENTING IN A TAPED TELEVISION INTERVIEW RELEASED LAST NIGHT AFTER HE WAS SUBPOENAED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE ORLEANS PARISH COUNTY GRAND JURY NEXT WEEK, SAID HE SHARED AN APARTMENT WITH FERRIE AND HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF OSWALD UNTIL THE ASSASSINATION.

IT WAS THIS SAME APARTMENT IN WHICH RUSSO ALLEGEDLY HEARD THE PLOTTERS.

RUSSO HAD TESTIFIED HE DID NOT KNOW MARTENS.

BUT IN THE TELEVISION INTERVIEW, TAPED TWO WEEKS AGO BY WDSU-TV, MARTENS SAID HE KNEW RUSSO AND THAT THE LATTER HAD A PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST FERRIE.

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