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Witness Says He Heard Shaw, Oswald Plotting

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Per-
 ty Raymond Russo testified at
 Clay Shaw's trial today that he
 overheard Shaw, Lee Harvey
 Oswald and David W. Ferrie
 conspire to kill President John
 F. Kennedy.

Russo, 27, a witness with a
 "hypnotically refreshed" memo-
 ry, told roughly the same story
 he gave at Shaw's 1967 prelimi-
 nary hearing—but with one
 change.

At the preliminary hearing,
 Russo testified he overheard the
 plotting during a party at Fer-
 rie's apartment in September
 1963. He said he had taken a girl
 named Sandra Mottelt with him
 to the party.

Today, Asst. Dist. Atty. James
 A. Alcock asked if anyone had
 accompanied him, and Russo, a
 New Orleans salesman, replied:
 "I am testifying I don't know
 if anyone accompanied me on
 that occasion."

Denied Attending

Sandra Mottelt, now Mrs. Har-
 old McMathes of Des Moines,
 Iowa, has said she never attend-
 ed such a party. The defense
 wanted her as a witness, but
 said she went into hiding to
 avoid their subpoena because
 she was afraid of Dist. Atty. Jim
 Garrison.

Russo pointed out Shaw, a
 55-year-old bachelor, as the man
 introduced to him at Ferrie's
 party as "Clem Bertrand."

He said Oswald had been in-
 troduced to him earlier as "Leon
 Oswald," and was Ferrie's
 apartment mate. He has identi-
 fied "Leon" as Lee Harvey Os-
 wald from photographs.

Shaw is charged with conspi-
 ring to kill Kennedy. Oswald and
 Ferrie are dead.

Russo said Oswald, Shaw and
 Ferrie discussed the assassina-
 tion at length, including plans
 for triangulation of fire and
 flying the gunners to safety.

Asked for Identities

After testifying that he had
 gone to Ferrie's apartment on
 Louisiana Parkway in the up-
 town area in mid-September,
 1963, Russo was asked by Al-
 cock:

"Was anyone else present?
 Who were they?"

A. David Ferrie and a man
 introduced as his roommate.

Q. On this occasion, how long
 were you in the presence of the
 man introduced as the room-
 mate (Oswald)?

Unsure of Pants

A. He wore a deep maroon
 jacket, white shirt, but I'm not
 sure of the pants.

Q. Can you describe this man?

A. He was big, 6 foot 4 or 5
 foot 5, broad shoulders and dis-
 tinguished looking . . .

Q. Do you see him now?

Q. What was his name?

A. I do (pointing to Shaw).

Q. Were you introduced to the
 distinguished looking man.

A. Yes.

Q. What was his name?
 A. Bertrand.

Q. What first name did he give?

A. Clem.

Q. At the apartment, what
 conversations were there in your
 presence with the defendant?

A. Ferrie pretty much mono-
 polized the conversation talking
 about the Cuban thing, just talk-
 ing.

Q. How many times before?

A. Many times he had been
 obsessed with this Kennedy and
 Cuba thing.

Q. What did Ferrie say?

A. Ferrie walked up and down
 telling about the projected as-
 sassination and how there could
 be triangulation of crossfire. He
 talked about three firing in-
 ter in June 1963 where he
 would have to be a scapegoat.
 We could either have one diver-
 sionary shot or we could have all
 three shoot at one time.

Q. What else did he say?
 A. No Escape by Air.

Q. There would be no way to escape except by flight. And they discussed Brazil and Cuba, but to go to Brazil would mean stopping to refuel. He then mentioned Mexico.

A. He said that was not possi-
 ble. There would have to be a
 stop for refueling and it would
 have to be some friend to give
 them assistance to fly out and
 the police would be everywhere.

Russo had told the prelimi-
 nary hearing he didn't recall
 tails of the party until a hyp-
 notist provided by Garrison
 asked him to relive the occa-
 sion.

The issue of hypnotism po-
 up at the trial during de-
 attorney F. Irvin Dymally
 cross examination Saturday
 prosecution witness Charles
 Spiesel, 50, a New Orleans
 accountant.

Spiesel claimed Ferrie
 one-time airlines pilot, took
 to a party near the French C
 lar in June 1963 where he h
 Shaw, Ferrie and others dis-
 how to kill the President.
 Spiesel, at the defense's
 quest, took the jury on a four
 Saturday to the French Qu
 in search of the apartment
 testified he visited in June
 "There, he testified, he
 about 10 men, including wa
 and Ferrie, discussing wa
 kill Kennedy.

Assassination of Pres. John F. Kennedy

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NOT RECORDED

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

Date 5/10/69

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