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Taylor
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2-10-69

UPI-120

Assassination of

(SHAW)
 NEW ORLEANS -- FERRY RAYMOND RUSSO, THE STATE'S STAR WITNESS
 AGAINST CLAY A. SHAW, TODAY REPEATED HIS STORY OF HEARING SHAW
 PLOT TO KILL PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, BUT ADMITTED UNDER
 CROSS-EXAMINATION IT COULD HAVE BEEN A BULL SESSION.
 RUSSO, POINTING TO THE 55-YEAR-OLD RETIRED NEW ORLEANS
 BUSINESSMAN, IDENTIFIED HIM AS THE "OLEN BERTRAND" HE HEARD DISCUSSING
 HOW TO ASSASSINATE KENNEDY IN 1963 WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND
 DAVID V. FERRIE.

"IS IT NOT TRUE THAT THE CONVERSATION COULD HAVE BEEN A BULL
 SESSION JUST AS WELL AS SOMETHING SERIOUS?" DEFENSE ATTORNEY F. IRVIN
 DYMOND ASKED HIM.

"YES, SIR," RUSSO REPLIED.

HE ALSO AGREED WITH DYMOND THAT FERRIE, A FORMER AIRLINE PILOT
 WHO DIED OF A CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE IN 1967, WAS "A LITTLE ON THE CRAZY
 SIDE."

RUSSO ORIGINALLY TESTIFIED AT SHAW'S PRELIMINARY HEARING IN 1967.
 HE GENERALLY REPEATED THE TESTIMONY MONDAY.

HE PICTURED SHAW AS A DOMINATING PERSONALITY OBSESSED WITH KILLING
 KENNEDY OVER "THE CUBA THING" AND AS A PARADOX OF A PERSON.

"HE WORE BAGGY AND DIRTY CLOTHES FREQUENTLY, BUT HE WAS SHARP."
 RUSSO SAID. "A MAN WHO COULD SPEAK 11 LANGUAGES AND WHO HAD FIVE
 DEGREES SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO BETTER. HE WAS TURNED TOWARD
 THE FANTASTIC."

"DO YOU MEAN FERRIE WAS A LITTLE ON THE CRAZY SIDE?" DYMOND
 ASKED.

"I ALWAYS THOUGHT SO," RUSSO SAID.

ASST. DIST. ATTY. ANTHONY SCIAMBRA TODAY READ INTO THE
 RECORD A MEMORANDUM WHICH HE SAID COVERED HIS FIRST QUESTIONING OF
 RUSSO ON FEB. 25, 1967.

SCIAMBRA SAID HE SHOWED RUSSO A PICTURE OF SHAW AND RUSSO
 IDENTIFIED HIM.

THE MEMORANDUM MADE NO MENTION OF THE MEETING IN FERRIE'S
 APARTMENT BUT RUSSO TESTIFIED AT LENGTH ABOUT IT TODAY.

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NOT RECORDED

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