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Assassination of Pres. John F. Kennedy

UPI-164

(SHAW)

NEW ORLEANS--A BOOK SALESMAN WHO IS THE PRIME WITNESS IN DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S CONSPIRACY CASE AGAINST CLAY L. SHAW ADMITTED TODAY THAT IN 1963 HE DID NOT CONSIDER AN ALLEGED PLOT TO KILL PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SERIOUS ENOUGH TO REPORT TO POLICE.

THE TURNABOUT TESTIMONY FROM PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO SEEMED A BLOW TO GARRISON'S CASE AGAINST SHAW, A 55-YEAR-OLD RETIRED BUSINESSMAN CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND PILOT DAVID W. FERRIE TO ASSASSINATE KENNEDY.

JACK RUBY KILLED OSWALD IN DALLAS TWO DAYS AFTER THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION AND FERRIE DIED IN NEW ORLEANS IN FEBRUARY, 1967, OF A BLOOD CLOT IN THE BRAIN.

"YOU DIDN'T CONSIDER IT (TALK ABOUT KILLING KENNEDY) IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO REPORT?" DEFENSE ATTORNEY F. IRVIN DYMOND ASKED RUSSO IN CROSS-EXAMINATION.

"RIGHT," REPLIED RUSSO.

THE SLIM, DARK-HAIRED PROSECUTION WITNESS ADMITTED HE NEVER HEARD SHAW OR OSWALD PLOT TO KILL KENNEDY. BUT HE SAID HE HEARD FERRIE SAY AT A PARTY IN MID-SEPTEMBER, 1963, "WE'LL KILL HIM," AND HE SAID HE HEARD TALK OF KILLING FIDEL CASTRO DURING THE SAME CONVERSATION.

"WOULD IT BE FAIR TO SAY THAT YOU DID NOT CONSIDER THIS A SERIOUS THREAT," ASKED DYMOND.

"WELL, YOU DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE FERRIE," SAID RUSSO. "IT WAS THE SAME AS TRYING TO INVADE CUBA--I COULDN'T SAY WHETHER HE INTENDED TO INVADE CUBA OR NOT."

"BUT YOU DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IN THAT MEETING THEY WERE JUST SHOOTING THE BREEZE OR HAVING A BULL SESSION?" DYMOND ASKED.

"RIGHT," REPLIED RUSSO.

2/11--TS642PES

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NOT RECORDED

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TOP CLIPPING

DATED

2-19-69
New York Times

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UPI-177

ADD SHAW, NEW ORLEANS (UPI-164)
 UNDER INTENSE CROSS EXAMINATION, RUSSO SAID HE HAD BEEN UNDER
 PSYCHIATRIC CARE BUT HAD NOT SEEN THE PSYCHIATRIST, DR. MAX
 E. JOHNSON SINCE JAN. 31, 1965.

RUSSO ALSO ADMITTED HE TOLD A POLICE OFFICER IN JUNE 1967 AFTER
 TAKING A LIE DETECTOR TEST THAT HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER SHAW WAS AT
 THE PARTY WHERE FERRIE TALKED OF KILLING THE PRESIDENT.

BUT RUSSO SAID AT THE TIME HE WAS "UNDER PRESSURE" BY A NUMBER
 OF NEWSMEN TO "SPLIT HAIRS" ON HIS STATEMENTS. THE NEWSMEN HARASSED
 HIM SO MUCH, RUSSO SAID, HE HARDLY KNEW WHAT HE THOUGHT AT THE TIME.

RUSSO ALSO TESTIFIED HE HAD BEEN HYPNOTIZED THREE TIMES FOR
 GARRISON AND TRANSCRIPTS WERE MADE OF THE FIRST TWO SESSIONS.

~~JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY JR. 431738-59-1192-53-5~~

~~JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY JR. 43 REFUSED TO ALLOW THE~~

JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY JR. REFUSED TO ALLOW THE TRANSCRIPTS
 TO BE INTRODUCED UNTIL DIRECT EVIDENCE COMES UP LATER.

2/11--TS729PES