

Officer Says Russo Admitted Shaw

Identification Was Lie

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[Sun Staff Correspondent]

New Orleans, Feb. 26 — A New Orleans police lieutenant testified at the Clay L. Shaw conspiracy trial today that the prosecution's star witness admitted to him he had lied in identifying Mr. Shaw as one of three men he said he overheard plotting to kill President Kennedy.

Det. Lt. Edward M. O'Donnell said Perry R. Russo, a 27-year-old encyclopedia salesman, also told him that, if asked for a yes-or-no answer on whether Mr. Shaw was at the party where he said he overheard the plotting, he would have to say no.

The charges by Jim Garrison, the district attorney, that Mr. Shaw conspired with Lee Harvey Oswald, a local pilot and others to murder the President rest heavily upon Mr. Russo's testimony about the overheard plot and his identification of Mr. Shaw as Clem (or Clay) Bertrand, one of the alleged conspirators.

Mr. Shaw, a 55-year-old retired businessman, is expected to testify in his own defense tomorrow.

Another defense witness, who preceded Lieutenant O'Donnell this afternoon, testified that Mr. Russo had also told him he was not positive of his identification of Mr. Shaw and was afraid of possible reprisals by Mr. Garrison if he changed his testimony.

James R. Phelan, a freelance writer formerly with the Saturday Evening Post, said Mr. Russo admitted that the first time he had said anything about the alleged plot was several days after his initial interview with an assistant district attorney.

Earlier today, a handwriting expert from Washington, who as an FBI agent broke the Lindbergh kidnaping case, testified that the mysterious Clay Bertrand signature in an airline-lounge guestbook was definitely that of Mr. Shaw.

A prosecution witness had testified last week that she saw Mr. Shaw sign the book as Bertrand—an alias the prosecution says he used during the alleged conspiracy and later.

Mr. Russo, under cross-examination two weeks ago, admitted making some statements to Lieutenant O'Donnell, but said most had been misinterpreted.

He had admitted to being somewhat unsure of his identification of Mr. Shaw, but blamed it on newsmen he said were "putting terrific pressure on me."

Lieutenant O'Donnell, a 17-year veteran of the police force here and now assistant commander of its homicide squad, said today Mr. Russo had "stated he was under extreme pressure from newsmen and Jim Garrison . . . He expressed fear to me that he would be charged with perjury . . . if he changed his story and told the truth."

Mrs. Jesse Garner, another defence witness and Oswald's landlady while he lived here in the summer of 1963, testified this afternoon that she had never seen Mr. Shaw at the Oswalds' apartment and that Oswald was always clean-shaven and "very neat"—not the bearded beatnik described by Mr. Russo as one of the conspirators.

She also told the jury that one of the other alleged co-conspirators, David W. Ferris, an airplane pilot who is now dead, came to her house the night of the assassination or the next night.

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

O. A. ... John F. Kennedy

- The Washington Post _____
- Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) _____
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Sun (Baltimore) 1-6 _____
- The Daily World _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Examiner (Washington) _____

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