

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Received
Psychiatric
Treatment
For Over
Year, Russo
Testifies
DA Witness
Quizzed on
Credibility

Perry D. Russo, Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's star witness in his attempt to hold Clay L. Shaw on a conspiracy charge, testified today that he once was under psychiatric treatment for more than a year. Under cross-examination by Shaw's attorneys, Russo said he underwent the treatment from October of 1959 until late 1960 or

ENCLOSURE

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Russo, who has testified that Shaw plotted the death of President John F. Kennedy with Lee Harvey Oswald and David William Ferrie, was on the stand for most of the morning session of the hearing in Criminal District Court.

The court action is a preliminary hearing on Garrison's charge that Shaw violated the state's criminal conspiracy law with a plot to kill Kennedy.

A THREE-JUDGE PANEL MUST DECIDE WHETHER Garrison has enough evidence to support a formal charge and a subsequent trial.

Russo, a 25-year-old Baton Rouge insurance agent, yesterday dramatically identified Shaw as "Clem Bertrand," a man he said met with Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald in

September, 1963, to discuss the assassination of the President. Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as the Kennedy assassin.

The questions about Russo's treatment by a psychiatrist were part of a line of questioning aimed at attacking the credibility of the witness. The questions were put by defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond.

Dymond said he could show that Russo has made contradictory statements.

Other witnesses on the stand this morning included:

James Kenney, agency director of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, which employs Russo. He identified records of the firm pertaining to the witness.

Endicott Batchelder, registrar at Tulane University, who identified some student records of his office. Russo once attended Tulane.

Dean A. E. Papale of the Loyola University School of Law, which Russo also attended.

Frank J. Stass, 51, of 400 Faye ave., Metairie, the registrar at Loyola.

Subpoenas also went out today to television stations WDSU and WVUE, for taped interviews with Russo.

The three-judge panel handling the case includes senior Judge Bernard J. Bagert and Judges Matthew S. Braniff and Malcolm V. O'Hara.

The hearing, which opened yesterday, represents the first time since the President was slain on Nov. 22, 1963, that any aspect of the case has gone before a court of law. The previous investigation was made by the Warren Commission, a special body appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

GARRISON maintains that a New Orleans-based conspiracy plotted the President's death. Shaw's arrest on March 1

was the first since the States-Item revealed on Feb. 17 in an exclusive story that the probe was under way.

Shaw entered the courtroom at 9:30 a. m. with his lawyers. He stood by the defense table conferring with them.

The DA's chief investigator, William Gurvich, was the first member of the prosecution team to enter the courtroom, almost a half-hour before start of the 10 a. m. hearing. Garrison and Russo appeared promptly at 10.

ORLEANS PARISH Coroner Dr. Nicholas J. Chetta was also on hand early, conferring with Garrison and his assistants. He has been called by the state as an expert witness.

The judges took the bench at 10:15 a. m.

Garrison was wearing a light green suit with a green tie and Russo was clad in a conservative brown suit and tie. Gurvich was less somberly dressed in a navy blue blazer and a yellow shirt.

SEVERAL NEW procedures were added this morning to the process of admitting newsmen and spectators into the crowded courtroom.

Police detectives and two female policemen were stationed within the foyer of the courtroom frisking persons as they entered.

In addition, several criminal sheriff deputies were added to the large group of guards in and around the courtroom.

Mrs. Nina Sulzer, secretary to Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr., said changes in procedures for admitting newsmen were made to speed up the process.

Shortly after 10:15 Judge Bagert asked if the state and defense were ready to proceed.

IN THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, Heyd reported that his office had returns on all three subpoenas issued by Shaw's attorneys yesterday.

They went to Loyola and Tulane universities, where Russo went to school, and to the Equitable Life Assurance Co., where he works.

Dymond then filed application for two more subpoenas for immediate return. He then asked that Dean Papale be called to testify.

At this point Judge Bagert, at the request of Dymond, ordered all witnesses out of the courtroom.

Before Dean Papale took the stand, Thomas Rayer, Loyola University attorney, asked the court to order the university to "remove all records on Mr. Russo and place them in my custody as attorney for the university."

HE THEN OFFERED AN ENVELOPE CONTAINING the records to the court.

He requested that the records be removed as a "precaution to assure the court that none of the contents of the record would be divulged outside the court or would be lost."

Rayer said a number of people have been to the university to look at the records.

Dymond then began questioning Dean Papale. His line of questioning was aimed at establishing legally that the records turned over to the court were those of Russo. He went through a similar procedure with Stass.

Russo then took the stand for his first questioning by the defense.

Dymond questioned Russo closely as to his belief in God. Russo said, "I don't consider my conceptions of God more peculiar than anyone else's."

When Dymond persisted, Judge Bagert said: "This is not a catechism class. Let's move on out of this area."

Dymond then questioned Russo about his family background, his number of brothers and sisters and whether his parents had ever been married to persons besides each other. Russo said he didn't know, but his father might have been.

Russo testified that his mother died in 1963, and that he has a brother named Edwin. He said he was supporting his grandmother, who lives in Mississippi.

Dymond questioned Russo at length on these family matters until Assistant DA James L. Alcock jumped to his feet and objected, saying he saw no point to the line of questioning.

Dymond told the judge that the line of questioning bears on the credibility of the witness. He said he could furnish evidence that Russo has made contradictory statements.

Earlier today, extra security precautions were ordered for the courthouse after threatening telephone calls were received.

One man described by police as an ex-convict from Michigan was arrested and booked with making threatening phone calls.

Heyd would not say what his extra security measures were, on the ground that this would serve to tip off potential troublemakers.

Arrested yesterday was James R. Liscombe, 30, of 708½ Bourbon. Police identified him as a musician for a Bourbon st. night club.

Heyd said the ex-convict telephoned his former warden in Jackson, Mich. and said he was brooding and "intended to make national headlines in New Orleans."

HE WAS ARRESTED at his apartment and booked with making threatening telephone calls after the Michigan prison official notified local police.

There were reports that Liscombe was seen in the crowd at the Criminal District Court building yesterday jostling newsmen, but this could not be confirmed.

His prison term in Michigan was for vandalism, Heyd said.

Heyd added there were other phone calls to various persons involved in the case, and Judge Bagert asked for the extra precautions.

SHAW ARRIVED at the court building at 9:30 a. m. today in a car driven by Dymond. Despite efforts to keep

his arrival secret, he was besieged by newsmen and photographers before being escorted inside by Heyd and his deputies.

Shaw visited his home at 1313 Dauphine briefly about 8:25 a. m. He apparently had spent the night elsewhere. From there, he went to the National Bank of Commerce Building with his other attorneys, Edward F. and William Wegmann. Their law

office is on the 10th floor of that building.

In contrast, the arrival of the other key figure in the case, Russo, went almost unnoticed at the courthouse this morning.

RUSSO WALKED into the Broad st. entrance at 8:37 and went up the stairs to the DA's office. No photographers were on hand, and only a handful of newsmen.

Yesterday's hearing was recessed unexpectedly early in the afternoon at the suggestion of the prosecution and with the concurrence of the defense after Shaw's attorneys asked that personnel records on Russo be subpoenaed.

A relaxed and sun-tanned Garrison threw his "mystery witness" over to defense attorneys for cross-examination early yesterday afternoon.

Emphasizing his questions with the motion of a pipe held in his right hand, Garrison led his witness through a narration of meetings with Ferrie and, finally, to a description of the meeting at Ferrie's apartment when Russo said the conspiracy was plotted.

THE CLIMAX came at approximately 12:45 when Russo, a calm, dark-eyed man, left the witness chair and, at Garrison's request, placed his hand over the head of Shaw.

Russo had been asked to identify Shaw as Clem Bertrand, the man who had allegedly plotted with Oswald

in Ferrie's apartment to kill the President.

Earlier, Russo had identified Oswald from pictures shown him by Garrison.

He had made the same picture identification of Ferrie, placing them in Ferrie's apartment with him in September of 1963.

SHAW WAS arrested March 1 and booked with criminal conspiracy in the President's death. He has never been charged, however.

The community leader and former director of the International Trade Mart has stoutly maintained that he is innocent.

The identity of Russo had been a closely guarded secret until he was called to the witness stand yesterday.

Russo told the court that "somewhere around the middle of September, 1963," he went to Ferrie's apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy. "where there seemed to be some sort of party in progress."

He said there were 10 people in the apartment when he first arrived, but as the night wore on the number was reduced to four—himself, Ferrie, Oswald and Bertrand, whom he later identified as Shaw.

AT FIRST, HE said Bertrand and Oswald questioned his presence at the session, but he said Ferrie vouched for him. Russo said he had known Ferrie since 1960.

It was at about this point that Garrison first asked Russo to identify Shaw as the man in the room. Russo pointed at Shaw.

Of the assassination talk, Russo testified that "Dave Ferrie began the conversation, pacing back and forth as he talked."

He said Ferrie stressed "diversification" in a plot to kill the President. Russo said Ferrie stressed the fact that "any assassination attempt would have to use diversionary tactics."

HE SAID FERRIE used three fingers of his hand to stress that "there would have to be a minimum of three people involved."

"Two of the people would shoot diversionary shots and the third . . . would shoot the 'good' shot," Russo quoted Ferrie as saying.

He said one of the three would have to be the "scapegoat."

Asked by Garrison to elaborate on this Russo said, "If there were three people, one of them would have to be sacrificed."

THROUGHOUT THE questioning, Garrison continued to ask Russo to identify Shaw as one of the men who took part in the discussion.

Russo said the three also talked about guns and how to exit from the assassination scene.

"Ferrie was the pilot . . . He said they ~~would~~ either go to Mexico or they could fly direct to Cuba. He talked about the risks of flying to Cuba."

He said Bertrand argued that once the shot was fired, the world would know, and the assassins would not be able to get out.

RUSSO TESTIFIED that in the discussion about escape it was decided that "Mr. Ferrie, Mr. Oswald and Mr. Bertrand would be in the public eye."

Russo said Ferrie said something about making a speech at Southeastern Louisiana College in Hammond.

Russo quoted Bertrand as saying that, "If this is the alternative, I will go on a business trip for my company."

He said the man he knew as Bertrand told the group he would go to the West Coast

FOLLOWING A recess in the hearing, Russo came back with more testimony.

He told the court he had seen Oswald two other times, both times in Ferrie's apartment.

On one occasion, Russo said Oswald was cleaning or polishing a bolt-action rifle with a telescopic sight on it.

Garrison then introduced a rifle with a telescopic sight and asked Russo to tell the court in what ways the gun differed or was the same as the one he saw Oswald holding. Russo said the stock and telescopic sight were different.

RUSSO SAID that at another time, he went to Ferrie's apartment and found Ferrie and Oswald in a heated discussion. Russo said he immediately left.

The witness also linked Ferrie and a man he identified again as Shaw on another occasion.

He said he went to a service station which was either owned or managed by Ferrie. While he was there, Russo said Ferrie sat in a car occupied by Shaw and talked to him.

RUSSO DESCRIBED the vehicle as a ~~convertible~~ sports car.

A battery of defense attorneys, led by Dymond, objected repeatedly to what they said was hearsay testimony not admissible in the hearing.

At one time the argument was joined in by all three judges, the defense attorneys and the prosecution.

Garrison, who appeared at the hearing with a sunburned face, was asked how it happened by a friend.

"I was interviewing a witness in the sun and I got so wrapped up in what I was doing that I stayed in the sun too long.

William Wegmann, one of Shaw's attorneys, was asked if the defendant would take the stand in a possible defense effort to disprove the state's allegations. ~~He~~ said the defense had not yet made a decision.



ENDICOTT A. BATCHELDER
Tulane registrar



FRANK J. STASS
Loyola registrar



—States-Item Photo.
PERRY R. RUSSO
Cross-examined today.



—States-Item photos by James W. Gullett.

CLAY L. SHAW STOPS BY RESIDENCE AT 1313 DAUPHINE TO PICK UP MAIL
en route to second day of preliminary hearing on assassination probe

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