

Hypnosis a Factor in New Orleans Trial of Shaw

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NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 9—Hypnosis has become a factor in District Attorney Jim Garrison's efforts to prove that a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy was initiated in New Orleans in 1963.

Two of the three major witnesses against Clay L. Shaw, accused by Mr. Garrison of a role in the conspiracy, have testified to having been hypnotized in the past.

And David W. Ferrie, named by Garrison as another conspirator in the assassination, was known as a hypnotist. Mr. Ferrie, who is dead, had been a pilot, but he was dismissed by Eastern Airlines because of his homosexual activities.

The two witnesses who have testified to having been hypnotized are Charles I. Spiesel, a 50-year-old New York City accountant, and Perry Raymond Russo, a 27-year-old former life insurance salesman.

Mr. Spiesel, one of Mr. Garrison's surprise witnesses against Mr. Shaw, was flown to New Orleans to testify that he had seen Mr. Shaw and Mr. Ferrie together in June of 1963 in the French Quarter of New Orleans and that the two men were casually discussing the problems that would be involved in assassinating President Kennedy.

The prosecution said the purpose of Mr. Spiesel's testimony was to show that Mr. Shaw and Mr. Ferrie were acquainted in the summer of 1963. Mr. Shaw has denied knowing either Mr. Ferrie or Lee Harvey Oswald, the third man named by Mr. Garrison as a conspirator in Mr. Kennedy's death.

The Warren Commission said Oswald, acting alone, killed the president.



United Press International
Charles A. Spiesel



Associated Press
Perry Raymond Russo

After testifying that he had become acquainted with Mr. Ferrie in a bar and had been taken to an all-male party in the French Quarter where Mr. Shaw was host in June of 1963, Mr. Spiesel told the Shaw jury that in the last 16 years he had been hypnotized by 50 or 60 enemies, including New York City policemen and certified public accountants. They planted delusions in his mind, he said.

Mr. Spiesel was willing to discuss his 16 years of such "persecution," but he said some details should be kept confidential. He said he was suing a number of persons for \$16-million and he did not want to reveal too much of his strategy in advance.

While Mr. Spiesel said he had been hypnotized against his will, Mr. Russo volunteered for hypnosis in February and March of 1967 when the District Attorney's office was preparing for a preliminary hearing

on the charges against Mr. Shaw.

Mr. Russo said he had been hypnotized three times over a period of two weeks before testifying in the hearing.

Dr. Esmond Fetter, a New Orleans physician, testified that he hypnotized Mr. Russo on Feb. 26, March 2, and March 12, 1967, and administered sodium pentothal, a relaxant commonly referred to as a "truth serum." Dr. Fetter denied implications by Mr. Shaw's attorneys that post-hypnotic suggestions had been implanted in Mr. Russo's mind while he was in a trance.

Said He Heard 3 Plotting

At this 1967 hearing, Mr. Russo testified that he had heard Mr. Shaw, Mr. Ferrie and Oswald planning Mr. Kennedy's murder.

Mr. Russo is scheduled to take the stand tomorrow to repeat this story in the trial now under way.

Mr. Ferrie's skill as a hyp-

notist was reported during the 1967 hearing by Mr. Russo. He said that at a Civil Air Patrol squadron meeting at Mr. Ferrie's apartment in 1963 Mr. Ferrie had hypnotized one of youths there. Mr. Russo said he was impressed.

Mr. Ferrie died on Feb. 22, 1967, after having said that Mr. Garrison had suspected him of having been involved in President Kennedy's murder.

Mr. Ferrie had an odd appearance. A disease had made him hairless. He wore nondescript wig that resembled monkey fur. He painted eyebrows over his eyes with mascara.

The one-time pilot also had done chores for Carlos Marcello, the reputed Mafia leader in Louisiana, and he was in a Federal court in New Orleans with Marcello on the day President Kennedy was killed.

Until Mr. Ferrie's death, Mr. Garrison had made cryptic remarks about his investigation into the assassination.

"Things are not what they seem," he said. "White is black and black is white."

After Mr. Ferrie was found dead, the District Attorney called him "one of history's most important individuals" and said that he had planned to arrest Mr. Ferrie and charge him in the President's murder.

The narcotics addict who testified against Mr. Shaw was Vernon W. Bundy Jr., who testified he had seen Mr. Shaw giving Oswald what appeared to be a roll of money on a lakefront near New Orleans in the summer of 1963.