New York, N.Y. 10017, Wednesday, March 15, 1967\*

# Mystery Witness Talks FINGERS THREE INJEK PLOT



Businessman Clay Shaw, 54, arrives at court house in New Orleans for preliminary hearing at which he was dramatically linked with Lee Harvey Oswald in the assassination of President Kennedy. District Attorney Jim Garrison supported his charge of an assassination plot by producing his mystery witness, insurance salesman Perry R. Russo, 25, who told the hearing that Oswald and Shaw discussed the murder of Kennedy two months before the Dallas tragedy.

Story on page 2



Perry Russo-mystery witness produced by DA Jim Garrison.

### **`Why' Is the Biggest Little Word in** Garrison's Probe participating in the Warren Commission investigation of the assassination? There is no record that he either offered informa-

New Orleans, March 14 (UPI)-One of the biggest little unanswered questions in District Attorney Jim Garrison's probe of an alleged New Orleans conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy is just one word and that word remains unanswered.

THREE

The question is: Why? Here are the facts:

Clay L. Shaw, 54, a resident of New Orleans of considerable stature, culture and intelligence, is accused of conspiring to murder Kennedy.

Perry R. Russo, 25, Baton Rouge, insurance salesman, says Shaw, whom he said he knew as Clem Bertrand, plotted with assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie to kill Kennedy.

He Managed Trade Mart

Shaw, an open admirer of John F. Kennedy, was managing director of the International Trade Mart

here at the time of Kennedy's assassination. In his job as director, Shaw personally and the trade mart had everything to gain from Kennedy's continued existence.

Kennedy's Alliance for Progress, if nothing else, had opened new vistas for the Trade Mart. But there were other Kennedy inroads into Latin America, too. The big little question begs even more when applied to Russo.

Why did Russo wait nearly 3 years to come forward with his information?

### Why Didn't Russo Report It?

Why did Russo not come forward when Ferrie's name was linked with Garrison's assassination investigation as early as Feb. 17?

Why did Russo wait eight days—until after Ferrie died of a brain hemmorhage in his New Orleans apartment—to volunteer his story?

Why did Russo not report immediately after the assassination to the FBI, the Secret Service or others

of the assassination?

There is no record that he either offered information or was questioned.

The same question goes unanswered with respect to Raymon Cummings and offered imbaugh.

Cummings, a former Dallas cape of the Cummings and Limbaugh, who describes himself as a singer, said he was working for Ruby and saw Ruby, Oswald and Limbaugh, who describes himself as a singer, said he was working for Ruby and saw Ruby, Oswald after the assassination—together in Ruby's office a week before the assassination.

Why did Cummings and Limbaugh wait until now to come forward?

Limbaugh said in a telephone interview that he did not think the information important at the time of the assassination.

Why is it important row?

Why is it important now?

# Oswald 'Plot'

By WILLIAM FEDERICI and ANTHONY BURTON Staff Correspondents of THE NEWS

New Orleans, March 14-Insurance salesman Perry R. Russo, 25, in a dramatic court scene, accused New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw today of conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and David Ferrie, a pilot, to assassinate President Kennedy.

It was the sensational development long promised by District Attorney Jim Garrison to support his charge that the late President was the victim of a conspiracy.

Russo, a mystery witness whom Garrison had kept under wraps until today, told a preliminary court hearing here that two months before the assassination in Dallas he heard Oswald, Shaw and Ferrie discuss a plan to murder the President. Ferrie died in

his apartment here Feb. 22. Although the coroner's office ruled that Ferrie died of natural causes, Garrison has insisted that the death

was a suicide.

On the stand, Russo linked Shaw, 54, former director of the city's International Trade Mart, with Oswald by describing meetings at Ferrie's home in which he said the three plotted to kill the Fresident.

### Talked of a Crossfire

He tesified that they talked of Killing Kennedy in a crossfire. He said Oswald had a rifle at one of the meetings. He said they decided that one of the conspirators would have to be sacrificed as a scapegoat. He said they agreed the other plotters would try to escape from the country in a

escape from the country in a Brings forth his witness plane piloted by Ferrie.

And, in a move that hushed the centroom, Russo left the stand to identify Shaw as one of the conspirators by standing behind the accused and placing a hand above his head.

It was a triumphant moment of Garrison, who had been confronted by jeers and skepticism ed to an obvious line of attack.



District Attorney Garrison Brings forth his witness



Clay Shaw Called a New Orleans plotter

for defense attorney Irvin
Dymond.
Nor was there any explanation
as to why the alleged conspirators
wanted to kill Kennedy.
Utilike many of the figures
who have been connected with
the Garrison investigation, Russo
is described by those who knew

### him here as a highly respectable young man, with a perfectly nor-mal background.

### Ferrie Had a Record

Ferrie Had a Record
Ferrie had been arrested in
neighboring Jefferson Parish
(County) on a morals charge, an
incident that cost him his job as
an airline pilot. Shaw, though a respected businessman, was ru-mored to have led an eccentric private life. When his home was searched prior to his arrest, in-vestigators removed whips,

(Continued on page 28, col. 1)



The late David Ferrie Placed at the meeting

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### DAILY ALMANAC

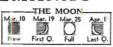
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1967
U. S. WEATHER BUREAU FORECAST

CLOUDY, RAIN LIKELY, COOL

Temperature range 38-45; east to northeast winds at 10-20 m.p.h. Tomorrow, clearing and colder. Eastern New York Stale: Cloudy with rain likely, cool.



	today described a plot to as-	HOW C	LIE2	FARED	YESTER	DAY
	, is "no glory hound," a close		High	Low	Inches of Rain	Weathe
friend said tonight.		Albany		36	.04	Clear
"He is loyal to American laws	groes in sit-in demonstrations in	Atlanta		57	-	Clear
and fully understands the penal-		Anchorage	31	6		Clear
ties of perjury," said the friend,		Boston		35	.07	Cloud
	Cube leadlete in December Laure	Buffalo	_ 34	33	.01	Cloudy
Peter Barrouquere, who went to	Lee Harvey Oswald distributed	Chicago	_ 36	35	Trace	Cloud
high school with Russo and still	such leaflets while in New Or-		- 63	53	.48	Rain
plays baseball with him.		Cleveland	_ 39	36	_	Cloudy
"He's a good-looking guy who	leans.	Denver	- 58.	32	=	Clouds
has led a very full and active life.		Fort Worth	- 86	64	=	Cloudy
He's got a wonderful sense of		Houston	_ 82		-	P.Cl'd
humor and because of his wide		Kansas City_ Los Angeles_	43	36	.18	P.Ci'd
		Memphis	_ 80.	65		Cloudy
interests he's very much in de-	of Young Republican baseball	Miami	_ 82	68	-	Clear
mand at social activities."	leagues here. One friend recalled	Minneapolis -	- 31	26	.76	Clear
Russo is unmarried. His family	that he had spoken once of the	New Orleans'	. 83	75	No.	Clear:
lives in Baton Rouge.	Kennedy dynasty and had re-	Philadelphia Phoenix	- 67	40	.01	Cloud
	marked: "The only way to kill	Sen Francisco	- 73	47	20	Clouds
Other friends described Russo	the Kennedys is at the polls."	San Juan, P.S.	. 82	70	.03	P.Cl'd
as "a brilliant boy" who could	Born in New Orleans, Russo	Seattle 51, Louis	- 47	35	.05	Clouds
do anything he set his mind to.	majored in political science at	Washington	78	47	_ =	Cloudy
Fellow workers at the Equitable	Tulane University before trans-					
Life Assurance Society described			TIME	OF TI	DES	
him as a "very active Republi-	liesting to bojoin Omversity here.	(By U. S.	Coast	& Geo	detic Su	rvey)
		Sandy H		he Ba		illets Pt
can."	in underwriting at -Louisiana	High 10:12 10		A,M. 10:42 1		M. P.M 12 1:3
They said he had joined Ne-	State University in Baton Rouge.	Low 4:18 4	:18			36 7:3



TEMPERATURES IN NEW YORK
Tresday's maximum 43 at 2:05 P.M.
Tresday's minimum 37 at 12:01 A.M.

	Highe Lower	t this date,	75 In 12 in	1946 1888
a.		10 a.m	4	7 p.m55
a.	m38	Noon	51	9 p.m47
a.	n39	1 p.m 2 p.m	62	0 p.m45
a.	39	3 p.m	62	Midnight_45
	1744	5 p.m	59	2 a.m43 3 a.m
or	34 hours	ended at 8	P.M.,	March 14.

Mein temperature, 50; normal, 40; average above normal since March 1, 2,53 de-

PRECIPITATION Yeslerday, .02 inch; total since Jan, 1, 7.7 inches, Total this date, 1966, 8.15 inches, Total since March 1, 3.63 inches. 97% at 8 A.M.; 76% at 10 P.M.

HOW THE WEATHERMAN DID
Yesterday's Forecast Was:
Cloudy, rain likely;
temperature range 38-45.

MA	R	CH			19	67
		Tue.			Fri.	Sat:
PALM SUN AY	20	SPRING	22	23	FRIDAY	25
EAS ER	27	28	29	30	31	

Survey)
Willets Pt.
A.M. P.M.
1:12 1:30
1:36 7:36 class postage paid at Nev York, N. Y.

## Friends Vouch for Key Witness



Perry Russo Tells of "plot" meeting

New Orleans, March 14 (Special)—Perry Russo, the young insurance man who today described a plot to assassinate President Kennedy, is "no glory hound," a close friend said tonight.

### Referred to Dynasty

### Lynda and George See 'Mame'



Lynda Bird Johnson and actor George Hamilton sit in limousine in front of the Winter Garden Theatre last night as they left after seeing the hit musical, "Mame." Secret Service men spetchem awar.

- The Warren Commission's investigators tonight angrily dismissed Perry Russo's sensational testimony as a case of mistaken identity or, more likely, an overactive imagination.

The investigators, who spent months here retracing every footstoud found absolutely no evidence that Oswald ever met Russo.

Oswaid ever met Russo.
"We can't prove from what we know right now that this didn't happen," said one source. "But if anything like this existed, I know we would have come across some trace of it during the investigation."

### FBI Is Silent

In Washington, the FBI would say only: "No comment." There was no sign that the official investigation for the Warren Commission was being reopened.

"It comes down to one man's word (Russo's) against another's (Clay Shaw)," explained one vet-eran of the probe. "The other two people supposed to be involved (Oswald and David Ferrie) are dead."

agents and local police who took part in the Warren probe just couldn't believe that a figure sup-posedly as important as Russo had not been picked up in their huge dragnet.

### An Oswald Look-Alike?

An Oswald Look-Alike?

The "mistaken identity" theory was based on a report circulating in New Orleans in recent weeks that District Attorney Jim Garritat District Attorney Jim Garritat Oswald but lives in New Orleans, moving in the odd circles familiar to Shaw and Ferrie.

This raised the possibility that Russo might have seen an Oswald look-alike with Shaw and Ferrie, and convinced himself that this was the assassin.

Here's why the Warren prob.

Orleans to unearth every they could about Oswald' there.

They knew he had been arrested in New Orleans on Aug. 11, 1963 while distributing literature for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

### Oswald's Past Probed

Oswaid's rast Fronce
For nearly six months, the FBI force worked in New Orleans while similar investigations went on in Dallas, Mexico City and every other place where Oswald had head head.

had been.

For the first few weeks, the investigators tried to establish exactly what had happened in Dallas. For months after that they tried to establish what had NOT

ord (kusso's) against another's and convinced himself that this clark Shaw)," explained one vettern of the probe. "The other two cople supposed to be involved Oswald and David Ferrie are ad."

Commission staff members, FBI of FBI agents swarmed into New language, the condition of FBI agents swarmed into New language, the condition of the condit

# House Unit Cool As Fowler Asks 7% Tax Credit

By CHARLES RABB

Washington, March 14 (NEWS Bureau)-Treasury Secretary Henry Fowler presented President Johnson's case for reinstating two business tax credits to a largely critical House Ways and Means Committee today. He drew fire from several members for refusing to abandon the Administration's still-to-be-considered proposal to add a 6% surcharge on income taxes.

Rep. Al Ullman (D-Ore.) argued that by putting the invest-ment sweeteners back on the ment sweeteners back on the books, the Administration for all practical purposes would have "killed any chance of imposing the surtax in this year and perhaps in this Congress."

He rapped the Administration for "in effect going in both directions at once."

The committee worked behind closed doors today to clear the bill, designed to put added zip into the nation's economy. The House is expected to act on it on Thursday.

Suspended Last October

Suspended Last October

The bill would put back on the books the 7% investment tax credit on new machinery and equipment and the fast write-off allowed on new business struc-

allowed on new business structures.

Fowler argued today that suspension of the business tax credits plant fall was never intended as a revenue measure, but to ease pressures on the economy caused by a "unique" situation, the Vietnam war buildup and the rapidly expanding civilian economy.

The surtax is a \$5.5 billion money-taiser intended primarily to pay for increased Viet war costs.

ministration wanted Congress to away would cause tax complica-



ized condition of a capital good boom and a tight money market no longer existed.

He denied that the Administration had any serious fears that the economy was moving into

Some Republicans rapped the Denies Recession Fear
Although some leading econonic indicators have been slipping,
Fowler maintained that the Adfive months after they were taken

# Linked to New Orleans Oswald

(Continued from page 2)

chains, a black hood, gown and

chains, a black hood, gown and cape.

Other men questioned by Garrison's investigators form an unsavory company, in cluding crooks, kooks, psychos and weirdes. Many of them continually change their stories, contradicting themselves when talking to reporters.

Shaw was arrested by the DA March 1 and accused of taking part in the plot. Today's hearing at the Orleans Parish Criminal Court House before a three-judge panel was to decide if there was enough evidence against Shaw to warrant his trial.

Russo told the judges that in

March I and accused of taking part in the plot. Today's hearing at the Orleans Parish Criminal Court House before a three-judge panel was to decide if there was enough evidence against Shaw to warrant his trial.

Russo told the judges that in the September before the November assassination he was present her September before the November assassination he was present in New Orleans when Oswald, Shaw and Perrie and the September before the November assassination he was present of earrying out the murder.

The discussed methods of carrying out the murder.

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The discussion centered associated the fact that an assassitable of the carrying out the murder.

The discussion contered associated the fact that an assassitable of the carrying out the murder.

The discussion contered associated the fact that an assassitable of the carrying out the murder.

The discussion contered associated the fact that an assassitation associated the fact that an assassitation will be the carrying out the murder.

The ded that Ferrie told Oswald on odded at him and asked that Ferrie was a margument about him?

The added that Ferrie told Oswald on odded that Ferrie told Oswald on odded at him and asked that for the people would be tend to the dree the people would be the content of the people would be the good shot.

Thereafter, one of these three was a least was a manufacture of the people would be the good shot.

Thereafter, one of these three was a "washed-up pilot," the fact of the people would be the good shot.

Thereafter, one of these three was a "washed-up pilot," the fact of the people would be the good shot.

Thereafter, one of these three was a "washed-up pilot," the president the death of David for the the washed hand a different kind of sight.

The added that Ferrie told Oswald on odded the proper would on the proper woul

One of them would have to be sacrificed while the others got away by plane to either Brazil or\_Cuba,"

away by piane to the control of Cuba."

During the afternoon session, Russo said he saw Oswald at Ferrie's apartment with a rifle. He testified Oswall was sitting on a sofa cleaning the gun, which had a telescopic sight. He described the weapon as an old-fashioned bolt action rifle.

Similar but Duller

### Similar but Duller

A Seeming Contradiction

New Orleans, March 14 (Special) — The testimony Perry Russo gave in court here today apparently con-tradicted what he told a tele-

tradicted what he told a television interviewer Feb. 24, two days after the death of David Ferrie, asserted getaway pilot in the assassination "plot" being unfolded by District Attorney Jim Garrison.

In the interview Russo said that he had never even heard of Lee Harvey Oswald before the assassination. Also, on that occasion, he put all talk of an attempt to kill the President in Ferrie's mouth alone. No conspiracy was mentioned.

"He wasn't even looking at thee President," Russo said.
Russo told the court that earlier this year the DA's office had asked him to identify Shaw as the man he knew as Bertrand. "We waited for two hours outside Bertrand's home on Darphine St.," he said. "I saw Mr. Bertrand with the said. "I saw Mr. Bertrand with the said." I saw Mr. Bertrand with the said. "I saw Mr. Bertrand with the said. "I saw Mr. Bertrand with the said." I saw Mr. Bertrand, but they weren't satisfied."
Eventually, posing as an insurance salesman, he knocked on Bertrand's door. When Shaw answered, he said, he identified Shaw as Bertrand. "I was absolutely sure in my identifiedient," Russo said.

Quizzed After Killing

### Quizzed After Killing

Quizzed After Killing
After Shaw's arrest, the FBI
said that he had been questioned
following the assassination and
cleared of involvement. There was
no explanation why Shaw was
quizzed, and federal officials said
the section of the Warren Report
dealing with Shaw had been
sealed and would not be made
public.

sealed and would not be made public.

Speaking in a Southern drawl, Russo said he met Ferrie in 1960 and continued to associate with him until 1964. Asked how he met Ferrie, he said: "I had a friend in the Civil Air Patrol and he had made mention—" At this point, the defense began a series of objections to hearsay evidence.

Russo said the friend intro-duced them and he attended a number of Civil Air Patrol meet-ings at Kenna, a suburb of New Orleans.

Orleans.

At this time, Ferrie was living in Kenna and Russe said he visited him there. Later, Ferrie moved into the city apartment where he was to die and Russe said he visited Ferrie there on a number of occasions in 1962 and 1963.

### Party Narrowed Down

Russo said that in the middle of September, 1963, he went to Ferrie's home and found a party in progress with about eight or 10 people present.

In progress with about eight or 10 people present.

"People began to leave," he said, "and it narrovered down to three people besides myself. I remained because I had no ride."

Garrison asked him who were the other three. "Dave Ferrie, Leon Oswald Loren Bertrand," Russo said. He explained that Leon Oswald turned out later to be Lee Harvey Oswald. Then came the dramatic moment which sent a shock wave through the court room. Garrison asked Russo if Clem Bertrand was in the court room. The witness looked at the accused, Clay Shaw, said yes and then pointed at him. This appeared to be the vital link between Oswald and Shaw.

haw. Court officials had to call for