

JULY 17, 1967

Clay Bertrand Never Existed, Says Andrews

By ROSEMARY JAMES

Dean Adams Andrews Jr., the New Orleans attorney charged with perjury in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe, said today that the mysterious Clay Bertrand "never existed".

Farrison has charged that retired businessman Clay L. Shaw, using the name Bertrand as an alias participated in a conspiracy to murder the President.

The name Clay Bertrand was first mentioned by Andrews, who told the Warren Commission that a man by that name called him to defend Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy, after the murder in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

TODAY, ANDREWS, speaking at the Press Club of New Orleans, said there is only one important point about Bertrand and that point is:

"Clay Shaw ain't Clay Bertrand. Amen."

Andrews was indicted for perjury after he refused to identify Shaw as Bertrand for

the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

The hip-talking lawyer, wearing his ever-present dark glasses and a fresh sun tan, said: "Years ago I was introduced to a fellow at a gay wedding reception. The boy never used the name Clay Bertrand. I was just introduced to him as Clay Bertrand."

Andrews said that he had "ducked the Warren Commission" as long as he could. The heavy-set lawyer, speaking in the jazzman's jargon, said he told commission investigators:

"Look, man, I don't want to talk. I'm going to tell you a bunch of lies. 'Will you tell them under oath?' they say, and I say, 'Be my guest.'"

ANDREWS outlined his circumstances as a man indicted in an investigation which has drawn national attention.

He said that you have to get used to attention like, "the old lady in the elevator who sticks you in the back and says 'Why don't you tell Big Jim the truth?'"

Andrews said that anyone who gets charged with a crime has several courses of action. "In some instances you hustle a fix . . . Me, though, I'm a harpooned whale dragged up on the beach, I got nowhere to go."

HE SAID THAT trying "to duck the press" is a waste of time and you can "no comment . . . no comment . . . no comment" or you can "open up your mouth and put your foot in it," he said.