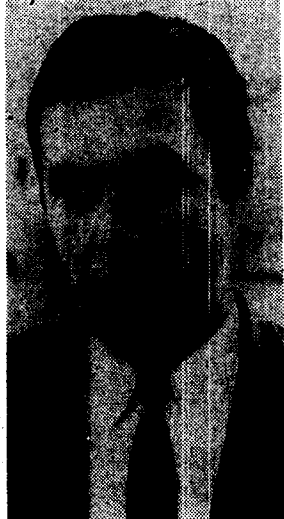


Witness Ties Oswald To Assassins' Parley; Saw Him Clean Gun

NEW ORLEANS, March 14 (AP).—District Attorney Jim Garrison's "confidential informant" told a three-judge Criminal District Court panel Tuesday that he heard Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw and David Ferrie plotting to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.



AP Wirephoto
Perry Raymond Russo has testified in New Orleans that Clay Shaw was one of three men he heard plotting assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Perry Raymond Russo, 25, an insurance salesman from Baton Rouge, testified he was in Ferrie's apartment here in September, 1963, and listened to a discussion of how to kill Mr. Kennedy and make a getaway.

DETAILS DEATH PLOT

Russo said the plot involved "triangulation of crossfire," diversionary shooting, a possible flight to Cuban and the sacrificing of one man as a scapegoat to allow the others to escape.

Mr. Kennedy was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963—two

months after the alleged meeting in Ferrie's cluttered apartment not far from New Orleans' elegant garden district.

The Warren Commission said Oswald was the lone assassin and there was no credible evidence of any conspiracy.

Of the three alleged conspirators, only Shaw is alive. Oswald was killed by Jack Ruby two days after the assassination, and Ferrie died in bed Feb. 22.

CLEARED IN 1963
Shaw has denied taking part in any conspiracy to kill the President, and the Attorney General in Washington said the FBI investigated Shaw late in 1963 and cleared him of any link to the assassination.

Russo, a part-time college student who lives with a younger cousin near the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, was described as "a nice young kid" by a neighbor. A fellow student at LSU said he was "a quiet type who is interested in politics."

Russo was first publicly connected with the Garrison probe on Feb. 24, when he said he

knew Ferrie.

Under the questioning by Garrison, Russo said Oswald was introduced to him as "Leon Oswald" and Shaw as "Clem Bertrand."

SUSPECT IDENTIFIED

Shown a photograph by Garrison, Russo identified Leon as Lee Harvey Oswald.

Asked if Clem Bertrand was in the courtroom, Russo pointed at Shaw. At Garrison's direction, he stepped from the witness chair, walked around the defense table and held his hand over Shaw's silvery white hair. Garrison had said before the hearing that Shaw used the alias "Clay Bertrand" rather than "Clem Bertrand."

The 54-year-old Shaw, calmly

Continued on Page 4, Column 4

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER.

Witness Links Oswald, Shaw To Assassin Plot

Continued from First Page

smoking a cigaret, didn't move. Shaw, former managing director of the International Trade Mart here, has denied any part in an assassination conspiracy.

'CLEANING A RIFLE'
Russo said that after the party he next saw Oswald in Ferrie's apartment, and that Oswald was "wiping or cleaning a rifle, bolt action. It had a sight on it for hunting."

Garrison showed Russo a rifle and asked if it had similarities to the one Oswald held in Ferrie's apartment.

Russo said he had seen Bertrand's mind is that this end (front) was not nearly so bubble-shaped." He said the weapon had the same bolt action, but a shinier stock, and its telescopic sight was larger than the one on the rifle Oswald had.

Russo said he had been Bertrand in May, 1962, when President Kennedy dedicated a new wharf in New Orleans, and said "New Orleans must trade or fade."

SEEN AT DEDICATION

"I was in school," Russo said. "The President was coming down to make a speech. At that time I saw Bertrand. While the President was speaking I was

looking around. Bertrand was one of the few not looking at the President."

Police estimated 20,000 persons attended the dedication.

Russo said he contacted Garrison after Ferrie's death, and the District Attorney took him to "a house on Daughine st." Shaw lives at 1313 Daughine st. "He stuck his head out the door and I said, 'That's the man,'" Russo said, alluding to Bertrand.

The hearing recessed at 3:30 P. M. until 10 A. M. Wednesday. The defense issued subpoenas for Russo's school and employment records.

The rare three-judge Criminal District Court panel was called to hear the preliminary case and decide whether there is enough evidence to warrant formal and trial for Shaw, now retired.

Shaw was arrested in Garrison's office on March 1. He was booked — but never formally charged—with conspiring to kill the President. Such procedure is common under Louisiana law.

Shaw, onetime Army major, was freed no \$10,000 bond shortly after his arrest.

After leading Russo through a brief summary of his educational background and present job, Garrison asked if he knew Ferrie.

Russo said he not only knew Ferrie but had an "open book book invitation" to visit Ferrie's apartment at any time.

He said that it was in the summer of 1963 that Ferrie "indicated to me that he was obsessed with Kennedy." This drew an immediate objection as being a conclusion reached by the witness. The court sustained the objection.

SQUELCHED AGAIN

"Don't tell us your conclusions," resumed Garrison. "What did Ferrie say to you in regard to Kennedy?"

This drew a new objection, also sustained.

Garrison then switched the

Profile

'Nice Kid' on Sinister Stage

BATON ROUGE, La.,
March 14 (AP).

PERRY RYMOND RUSSO, a 25-year-old insurance salesman and parttime college student who emerged Tuesday as the "confidential informant" in District Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe, was described by his company superior as a "real fine guy, a hard worker, an intellectual."

Russo testified at the New Orleans hearing that he heard Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw and David W. Ferrie plotting to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Russo was first linked publicly to the case two days after Ferrie's death on Feb. 22. At that time he said Ferrie had told him a month before Mr. Kennedy's death that "we will get him and it won't be long."

RUSSO said he did not take any of Ferrie's statements about the assassination seriously until he saw Ferrie's photograph in a newspaper during Garrison's current investigation. He said he wrote Garrison on Feb. 24, relating his contacts with Ferrie.

A dark, intense man, Russo is a bachelor. He lives with a cousin in a white frame duplex near the Louisiana State University campus.

Mrs. Eleanor Durand, who lives in the other half of the duplex, describes Russo as "a nice young kid. He told us he's helping his younger brother through high school."

She said Russo and his cousin moved into the duplex recently. "Lots of young folks come in there and have a party once in awhile," she said.

MR.S. DURAND said she understood from a next-door neighbor that a bodyguard was assigned to Russo.

Russo is one of 10 Equitable Life Insurance Co. salesmen currently taking a course in underwriting insurance at LSU.

A fellow student, who refused to give his name, described Russo as "a real fine boy—a quiet type who is interested in politics."

Russo, who played for and managed several local baseball teams, enrolled at Tulane University after graduation from New Orleans High School. He later transferred to Loyola University of the South and was awarded a bachelor's degree in political science in 1964.

His parents live in New Orleans.

testimony to the apartment party with this query, "Do you recall anything unusual happening at Ferrie's apartment in 1963?"

"Sometime around the middle of September I went to the house and at that time there was some sort of party in progress. There were eight or nine people there. As the party dissipated it narrowed down to three people beside myself because I had no ride home."

At this point, Garrison drew from Russo testimony regarding the identification of Oswald and Shaw as Leon Oswald and Clem Bertrand.

RECOUNTS EXCHANGE

Russo described the talk in Ferrie's apartment in these words:

"David Ferrie began the conversation after some excuse for my being there. He began pacing back and forth and talking to Bertrand and Oswald.

"These discussions centered around how the assassination of Kennedy would have to use diversionary tactics."

Russo quoted Ferrie as saying there would be two or three people involved. One person would shoot "diversionary shots," the other would shoot what he said Ferrie termed "the good shot." He quoted Ferrie as saying one man "would have to be the scapegoat."

Russo described Ferrie as the

pilot in the plot. He quoted the former airlines pilot as saying they would go to Mexico and refuel "and on to Brazil and then to Cuba."

FEAR ON GETAWAY

Russo said Bertrand interrupted to say that as soon as the shot was fired, "the world would know about it," and they would not be able to get a plane out of Cuba.

Garrison asked Russo to tell the court the background of the assassination.

"I had occasion to have a friend who was in the Civil Air Patrol," Russo said.

At this point, Shaw's attorneys objected on grounds the testimony was hearsay.

A long legal debate followed.

Russo said he was impressed by Ferrie's "demonstrations" at a Civil Air Patrol meeting.

Asked what the demonstrations consisted of, Russo said: "He put on a demonstration of hypnotic ability," using some of those present at the meeting.

The crowd in the stuffy courtroom included 74 reporters — leaving just a few seats for spectators. All of them were carefully checked in and out of the courtroom by 20 sheriff's deputies assigned to maintain tight security. A device to detect metal objects was used to screen everyone entering the courtroom.

Russo's testimony brought vehement objections by the de-

fense that it contained hearsay. The objection was sustained by presiding Judge Bernard Bagert, with qualifications.