

Money Offered for Help, RFK 'Plot' Witness Says

NEW YORK, June 19 (UPI) —A fourth witness has said he was offered money for helping the investigation of New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison into the Kennedy assassination.

Fred Leemans, who once ran a Turkish bath in New Orleans, said Garrison's investigators told him he would be helped to get \$2500 he needed to lease a building for a nightclub if he could remember that Clay L. Shaw used the name Clay Bertrand and was accompanied to the Turkish bath by someone named Lee.

Leemans made the remark in a filmed interview with NBC-TV news as part of the Monday night TV special "The JFK Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison."

Garrison wrote Sunday to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) charging that "NBC has gone far beyond the pretense of merely gathering and disseminating news in its attack on the State of Louisiana prior to the trial of Clay L. Shaw."

Garrison claims Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald and others conspired to kill President John F. Kennedy. Shaw has been indicted.

The three other witnesses who said they were offered concessions to help the investigation were Miguel Torres, John (the Baptist) Cancler and Alvin Beauboef. Torres and Cancler are convicted burglars now in jail. Beauboef said he was offered \$3000 and a job.

Leemans in the interview

said he received a call from a Robert E. Lee of Garrison's office and talked to Lee later at the district attorney's office.

"He said, did I know Clay Shaw? And I said, well I knew him. He said, he used to come to your place and I said, well, some of the time, yes," Leemans told the NBC interviewer, continuing:

"And he said, did he use the name Clay Bertrand, and I told him that I couldn't swear that he used that name because I didn't remember names too good, or dates. And he said it would be very helpful to them if I could remember any of that. And I said, well, I don't want to get involved in anything like this. I said I'm trying to get a lease on a building in New Orleans now, if I could raise the money for it.

"And he said, well, I'm sure that if you help us that we can help you, and you can get the place that you want. So then he asked me questions about, couldn't I remember that Clay Shaw used the name of Clay Bertrand when he came to the baths?

"The way he asked that I figured he wanted a yes, so I told him yes. . . ."