AFTER PHONE THREATS

Ex-Convict Is Booked on Call Count

Extra security precautions were taken today at Criminal District Court after threatening telephone calls were received at the scene of the tension-charged hearing on Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's assassination conspiracy against Clay L. Shaw.

One man, whom police described as an ex-convict from Michigan, was arrested and booked with making threatening phone calls.

Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd would not say what his extra security measure entailed on the grounds that this would serve to tip off the troublemakers.

(The atmosphere inside and outside the courtroom in yesterday's hearing on the Garrison probe of the presidential assassination is described on Page 25.)

ENDICOTT A. BATCHELDER

FRANK J. STASS

Continuing today was the preliminary hearing to determine whether Garrison has sufficient evidence to try Clay L. Shaw for conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy.

SHAW'S DEFENSE attorneys got their turn at bat today, with the DA's star witness, Perry R. Russo, their prime target.

Russo, a 25-year-old Baton Rouge insurance agent, yesterday dramatically identified Shaw as "Clem Bertrand," a man he said met with David Ferrie and a "Leon" Oswald in September, 1963, to discuss the assassination of the President. Lee Harvey Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as the Kennedy assassin.

ARRESTED YESTERDAY was James R. Liscombe, 30, 708½ Bourbon. Police said he was seen in the crowd on the courthouse steps, pushing newsmen around and jostling bystanders.

Police said he telephoned parish prison officials and said he was brooding and "intended to make national headlines in New Orleans."

Heyd said there were other phone calls to various persons involved in the case, and extra precautions were taken because of "anticipated trouble."

YESTERDAY'S HEARING recessed unexpectedly early in the afternoon at the suggestion of the prosecution with the concurrence of the defense after Shaw's attorneys asked that personnel records on Russo be subpenaed.

Subpenaed by the defense were:

Frank J. Stass, 51, 400 Faye ave., Metairie, the registrar at Loyola University, where Russo studied law.

Endicott A. Batchelder, the registrar at Tulane University, where Russo did some undergraduate work.

James J. Kenney, personnel manager for Equitable Life Assurance, the firm which employs Russo in Baton Rouge.

A relaxed and sun-tanned Garrison turned his "mystery witness" over to defense attorneys for cross-examination early yesterday afternoon.

Emphasizing his questions with the motion of a pipe held in his right hand, Garrison led his witness through a narration of meetings with Ferrie and, finally, to a description of the meeting at Ferrie's apartment when Russo said the conspiracy was plotted.

THE CLIMAX came at approximately 12:45 when Russo, a calm, dark-eyed man, left the witness chair and, at Garrison's request, placed his hand over the head of Shaw.

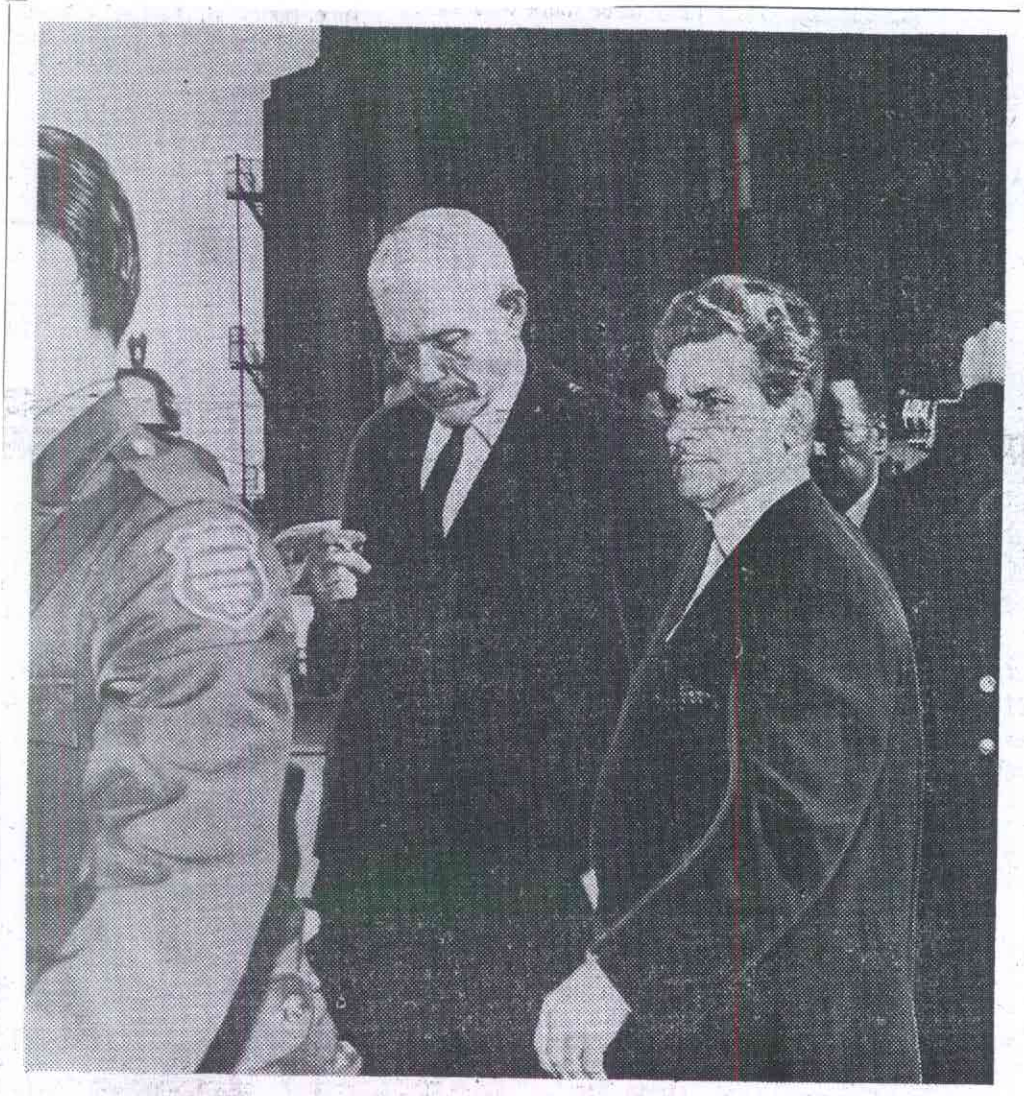
Russo had been asked to identify Shaw and Clem Bertrand, the man who had allegedly plotted with Lee Harvey Oswald in David Ferrie's apartment to kill the President.

Earlier, Russo had identified Oswald, the man the Warren Commission concluded acted alone in assassinating the President, from pictures shown him by Garrison.

He had made the same picture identification of Ferrie, placing them in Ferrie's apartment with him in September of 1963.

KENNEDY WAS shot to

(Turn to Page 4, Column 5)



CLAY SHAW LEAVES COURTHOUSE WITH DEPUTY SAVERIO LOYACANO —States-Item photo.

Pistol Discovered at Shaw Parking Site for Hearing

A small, foreign-made pistol was found Sunday hidden behind the wheel of a truck at a service station where Clay Shaw and his attorneys parked their car yesterday to appear in Criminal Court on Shaw's murder conspiracy hearing.

The gun was loaded and within easy access to anyone moving in the station entrance.

Since its discovery, L. M. Magruder, owner and operator of the station, said a tall, slim, unidentified man has twice been seen walking across the apron of the station in the vicinity of the pistol's hiding place.

Magruder said the pistol, made in Germany, apparently was placed carefully behind the wheel of the truck, which had not been in use for some time.

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death in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Shaw, who stoically chain-smoked through the hours of testimony yesterday, emerged from the Criminal Courts Building about 3 p. m. with his attorneys and deputies from the criminal sheriff's office.

He was met by an international corps of reporters and cameramen who swarmed with him across Tulane ave. and did not disband until Shaw drove away from a parking lot.

SHAW WAS arrested March 1 and booked with criminal conspiracy in the President's death. He has never been charged, however.

The community leader and former director of the International Trade Mart has stoutly maintained that he is innocent.

The identity of Russo had been a closely guarded secret until he was called to the witness stand yesterday.

Russo, who has been active in Republican politics and is a baseball fan, testified before a three-judge Criminal District Court panel consisting of Bernard J. Bagert, Matthew S. Braniff and Malcolm V. O'Hara.

YESTERDAY'S OPENING of the hearing was the first major showdown in the case which has drawn worldwide attention since the States-Item revealed that the probe was under way on Feb. 17.

Russo told the court that "somewhere around the middle of September, 1963," he went to Ferrie's apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy. "where there seemed to be some sort of party in progress."

He said there were 10 people in the apartment when he first arrived, but as the night wore on the number was reduced to four—himself, Ferrie, Oswald and Bertrand, whom he later identified as Shaw.

AT FIRST, HE said Bertrand and Oswald questioned his presence at the session, but he said Ferrie vouched for him. Russo said he had known Ferrie since 1960.

It was at about this point that Garrison first asked Russo to identify Shaw as the man in the room. Russo pointed at Shaw.

Of the assassination talk, Russo testified that "Dave Ferrie began the conversation, pacing back and forth as he talked."

He said Ferrie stressed "diversification" in a plot to kill the President. Russo said Ferrie stressed the fact that "any assassination attempt would have to use diversionary tactics."

HE SAID FERRIE used three fingers of his hand to stress that "there would have to be a minimum of three people involved."

"Two of the people would shoot diversionary shots and the third . . . would shoot the 'good' shot," Russo quoted Ferrie as saying.

He said one of the three would have to be the "scapegoat."

Asked by Garrison to elaborate on this Russo said, "If there were three people, one of them would have to be sacrificed."

THROUGHOUT THE questioning, Garrison continued to ask Russo to identify Shaw as one of the men who took part in the discussion.

Russo said the three also talked about guns and how to exit from the assassination scene.

"Ferrie was the pilot . . . He said they could either go to Mexico or they could fly direct to Cuba. He talked about the risks of flying to Cuba."

He said Bertrand argued that once the shot was fired, the world would know, and the assassins would not be able to get out.

RUSSO TESTIFIED that in the discussion about escape it was decided that "Mr. Ferrie, Mr. Oswald and Mr. Bertrand would be in the public eye."

Russo said Ferrie said something about making a speech at Southeastern Louisiana College in Hammond.

Russo quoted Bertrand as saying that, "If this is the alternative, I will go on a business trip for my company."

He said the man he knew as Bertrand told the group he would go to the West Coast

FOLLOWING A recess in the hearing, Russo came back with more testimony.

He told the court he had seen Oswald two other times, both times in Ferrie's apartment.

On one occasion, Russo said Oswald was cleaning or polishing a bolt-action rifle with a telescopic sight on it.

Garrison then introduced a rifle with a telescopic sight and asked Russo to tell the court in what ways the gun differed or was the same as the one he saw Oswald holding. Russo said the stock and telescopic sight were different.

RUSSO SAID that at another time, he went to Ferrie's apartment and found Ferrie and Oswald in a heated discussion. Russo said he immediately left.

The witness also linked Ferrie and a man he identified again as Shaw on another occasion.

He said he went to a service station which was either owned or managed by Ferrie. While he was there, Russo said Ferrie sat in a car occupied by Shaw and talked to him.

RUSSO DESCRIBED the vehicle as a white sports car.

A battery of defense attorneys, led by F. Irvin Dymond, objected repeatedly to what they said was hearsay testimony not admissible in the hearing.

At one time the argument was joined in by all three judges, the defense attorneys and the prosecution.

At the start of the hearing, the state introduced five expert witnesses.

They are Dr. Nicholas J. Chetta, Orleans Parish coroner; Dr. Edmond A. Fatter, a private physician; Det. Frank Haywood, a police officer; John Reilly, a photographer assigned to the Police Bureau of Identification, and

Peter Schuster, an investigator-photographer for the coroner's office.

ASST. DIST. ATTY. Alvin Oser led the questioning of the expert witnesses.

Schuster told the court he took photos at Ferrie's apartment on Feb. 22, the day Ferrie died.

He was questioned about a number of pictures by both the prosecution and defense.

Later, some of the pictures were used by Garrison in his questioning of Russo.

Reilly also testified that he photographed the death scene.

AT 11:25 A. M., Judge Bagert recessed court.

Garrison, who appeared at the hearing with a sunburned face, was asked how it happened by a friend.

"I was interviewing a witness in the sun and I got so wrapped up in what I was doing that I stayed in the sun too long.

William Wegmann, one of Shaw's attorneys, was asked if the defendant would take the stand in a possible defense effort to disprove the state's allegations. He said the defense had not yet made a decision.