Used Truth Serum on Russo

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Staff Correspondents of THE NEWS

New Orleans, March 16—Coroner Nicholas J. Chetta testified today that he had used truth serum as well as hypnosis in questioning Perry Russo about his story that he heard Lee Harvey Oswald conspire with others to kill President Kennedy.

Chetta, a nationally known pathologist, told the three-judge panel conducting a preliminary hearing here that he had interrogated Russo six times while Russo was in a trance from the truth serum, sodium pentathol, or from hypnosis.

There was a strong implication that Russo, 25, a Baton Rouge insurance salesman, had not only repeated his story of the plot while in the trances, but had given even more detail than he had been able to while fully conscious.

The court adjourned until tomorrow in the midst of a legal argument on whether the coroner could quote what Russo said while in trances.

Witness Is Unshaken

Businessman Clay Shaw, 54, is accused of taking part in the asserted plot with Oswald and an ex-pilot, David Ferrie, now dead. The two-day cross-examination of Shaw's accuser, Russo, ended this afternoon with Russo unshaken.

The judges still had to decide whether there was enough evidence against Shaw to warrant a trial. But the defense certainly had not cracked Russo when he stepped down.

Chetta took the stand next. Although a state witness, he had clashed with Garrison about three weeks ago over the death of Ferrie. The coroner gave a verdict of death from natural causes, whereas Garrison insisted it was suicide.

Chetta testified that the sodium pentathol had been injected into Russo at a New Orleans hospital and that in his opinion the results showed that Russo was sane when he first told of the alleged conspiracy and that he was sane now.

"He fulfills all the requirements of legal sanity," the pathologist said. He said that Russo was neither disoriented nor hallucinating. His behavior, the coroner said, was that of a very rational, controlled and well-disciplined person. Chetta said he was satisfied that Russo had not faked his trances.

Describing the truth drug, Chetta said it was used as an

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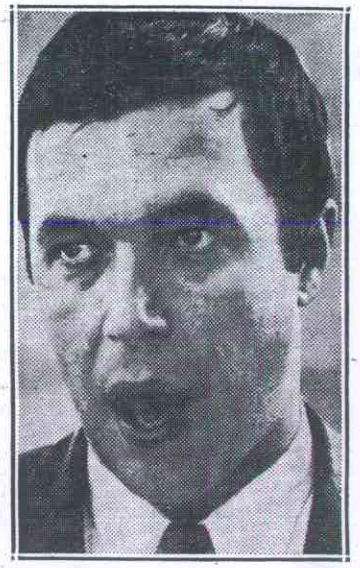
(Associated Press Wirefoto)
Subject of sketch was identified by Perry Russo as Lee Harvey Oswald.

Oswald Not Solo: Cushing

Boston, March 16 (UPI)—Cardinal Cushing—in a news conference announcing his retirement in 1970—said today he "never believed" President Kennedy's assassination was the act of one man.

"I believe they should follow it through," Cushing said of an investigation by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison into an alleged plot to kill Kennedy.

Cushing set his retirement date at Aug. 24, 1970, his 75th birthday and the 25th anniversary of his becoming archbishop of Boston.



Perry Russo
A better day on stand

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Truth Serum Given Russo, Coroner Says

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the MCTA plan would enable Grumman to continue using the Calverton facility and even expand its own operation, a Grumman official said: "We feel we cannot coexist on a common site with a major jetport facility."

When asked about opposition of the Suffolk County Board of Supervisors, Rockefeller said: "I think they're concerned with Grumman Aircraft. If we make a solution suitable to Grumman, then I think you'll remove their major concern."

Ronan said the Authority plan, which calls for Calverton to

Claims Photo Evidence

New Orleans, March 16 (Special) — A Boston dishwasher was due here tonight, reportedly to tell District Attorney Garrison about a photo showing Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby and Perry Russo talking together in Ruby's Dallas night club.

The dishwasher, Arthur Edward Strout, 28, said before leaving Boston by plane this afternoon: "Mr. Garrison has the picture now." But Garrison's office denied this. Garrison paid for Strout's flight here, however.

aid in psychiatric diagnosis. "Sodium pentathol removes any mental blocks an individual may have and permits him to recall and recount" his experiences. "They must have lived those experiences," he added, and "they do it rather easily and vividly." He said hypnosis has the same effect on recall as sodium pentathol.

The implication that Russo had told even more about the alleged plot while in the trances, came when Assistant District Attorney Al Oser asked the coroner if the drug could bring out specific details, including dates, names and locations that would not be remembered without the drug's aid.

At this point, the hassle arose as to whether the coroner could answer the question and the court adjourned with the point unresolved.

Earlier, Russo had told of being hypnotized after he told Garrison's investigators about the asserted conspiracy.

He calmly denied, however, that he was or had been under hypnosis while testifying. He denied also that he had attempted suicide while in high school. He said also that he had been given no role in the purported plot nor had participated in any discussions about it.

Before defense attorney Irvin Dymond let Russo go, he took the witness once more through his story of hearing a plot discussed in Ferrie's apartment in September, 1963.

Russo added more details as he repeated his testimony that Ferrie had talked of catching Kennedy in a crossfire and of sacrificing one plotter to the police so that the others could escape.

Russo testified that the plotters did not say who would be sacrificed and did not describe the role each participant would play.

"I didn't get the impression that all three would actively participate," he said.

Again asked by Dymond why he had not come forward with his story before, Russo replied that he was "no authority" on the assassination. He said he was only 22 at the time and not prepared to fight the federal government, which was satisfied that Oswald had acted alone. "I was just a voice in the wilderness," he said.

It was after Garrison told newsmen that Ferrie was involved that he decided "I might be able to help, since I knew Ferrie and something of his friends."

Russo said that after the Garrison probe began, he identified Shaw through a one-way mirror in the DA's office.

"What part were you to play in the assassination?" Dymond asked. "I had no part, nothing," Russo replied.

"Had you said that you wanted to see President Kennedy killed?"

"I never said that," Russo answered.

La. Official Called Perjurer

Dean Andrews Jr., indicted in probe, at court yesterday.

New Orleans, March 16 (Special)—Dean A. Andrews Jr., an assistant district attorney in suburban Jefferson Parish (County), was indicted for perjury here tonight in connection with the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

The indictment was handed up to Criminal Judge Thomas M. Brahney Jr. by the Orleans Parish grand jury that is conducting a probe into the asserted plot. The grand jury probe parallels the court hearing going on here to determine whether retired New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw is to be brought to trial for complicity in the alleged conspiracy.

Andrews, who was suspended from his Jefferson Parish post today, was a puzzling figure in the Warren Commission investigation into the assassination.

Andrews testified to a Warren Commission lawyer that one "Clay Bertrand" had contacted him after the assassination and asked him to defend Lee Harvey Oswald.

Perry Russo, Baton Rouge insurance salesman, has testified before the court hearing on Shaw that he knew Shaw as Clem Bertrand.

Andrews was subpenaed by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who initiated both the grand jury probe and the court hearing. Also subpenaed by Garrison was Gordon Novel, 29, a local bar owner who is reportedly a friend of Andrews.

Novel said before entering the jury room that Garrison wanted to question him about Sergio Aracha Smith, a former anti-Castro Cuban exile leader who moved from New Orleans to Dallas in 1962.