242A

ASSASSINATION 3/15 DA9

URGENT

1ST NIGHT LD ASSASSINATION 230A

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UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

NEW ORLEANS (UPI)--DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S STAR WITNESS TESTIFIED WEDNESDAY HE WAS NOT SURE LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS A MAN HE KNEW AS "LEON OSWALD" WHEN HE SAW THE ASSASSIN ON TELEVISION AFTER PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS KILLED.

PERRY R. RUSSO, 25, A BATON ROUGE INSURANCE SALESMAN, SAID TUESDAY HE WITNESSED BUSINESS LEADER CLAY SHAW, OSWALD AND DAVID FERRIE PLOTTING KENNEDY'S DEATH IN SEPTEMBER OF 1963.

HE IDENTIFIED OSWALD FROM A NEWS PHOTOGRAPH AS "LEON OSWALD, THE NAME HE KNEW THE CONSPIRATOR BY AT THE MEETING IN FERRIE'S APARTMENT.

UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION WEDNESDAY AT SHAW'S PRELIMINARY HEARING, RUSSO WAS ASKED BY DEFENSE ATTORNEY F. IRVIN DYMOND IF HE RECOGNIZED OSWALD IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION AS LEON OSWALD.

"I GAVE IT THOUGHT BUT I COULDN'T BE POSITIVE OF THE MAN" HE SAID.

"I WAS NOT DEFINITE. "IT WAS PROBABLY THE SAME MAN. IT CROSSED MY MIND THEY WERE ONE AND THE SAME BUT I COULD NOT BE DEFINITE."

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS ALSO PLAYED IN COURT WEDNESDAY THE TAPE OF AN INTERVIEW RUSSO HAD WITH NEW ORLEANS STATION WDSU TWO WEEKS AGO, IN WHICH HE SAID HE HAD "NEVER HEARD" OF OSWALD BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION.

DYMOND WAS QUESTIONING HIM ABOUT THE TAPE WHEN THE HEARING RECESSED UNTIL 11 A.M. EST THURSDAY.

"I KNEW LEON OSWALD, WHO HAD WHISKERS," RUSSO SAID. "HE WAS

DIRTY. HIS HAIR WAS RUFFLED UP."

THE PHOTOGRAPHS RUSSO IDENTIFIED AS LEON OSWALD TUESDAY INCLUDED A POLICE "MUG" SHOT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSIN TAKEN IN NEW ORLEANS. HE ALSO IDENTIFIED A NEWS PHOTO OF OSWALD WALKING BETWEEN TWO DETECTIVES IN DALLAS JUST BEFORE HE WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY NIGHTCLUB OWNER JACK RUBY TWO DAYS AFTER THE NOV. 22 ASSASSINATION.

HE REPEATED THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SECOND PICTURE WEDNESDAY BUT SAID HE WOULD NOT "GO OUT ON A LIMB" AND SAY A PICTURE OF OSWALD BEING SHOT BY RUBY TAKEN SECONDS LATER WAS A PICTURE OF LEON OSWALD.

LATER IN WEDNESDAY'S TESTIMONY, THOUGH, HE SAID HE WAS NOW "ABSOLUTELY SURE THE MAN I KNEW AS LEON OSWALD IS LEE HARVEY OSWALD."

RUSSO SAID HE WAS ABLE TO MAKE THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE OSWALD PICTURE BECAUSE A DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S INVESTIGATOR DREW WHISKERS ON IT.

DYMOND BORE DOWN ON RUSSO'S CREDIBILITY THROUGHOUT THE SECOND DAY OF THE PRELIMINARY HEARING AND QUESTIONED HIM REPEATEDLY ON WHY HE DELAYED NEARLY THREE YEARS BEFORE COMING FORWARD WITH HIS INFORMATION ABOUT THE 1963 MEETING.

POLICE TIGHTENED SECURITY AT THE NEW ORLEANS CRIMINAL COURT BUILDING AFTER IT WAS REVEALED A PISTOL WAS FOUND NEARBY TUESDAY AND A MAN HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR DISTURBANCE INSIDE.

OFFICERS SAID THERE WAS NO APPARENT CONNECTION BETWEEN THE ARREST AND THE DISCOVERY OF THE GERMAN-MADE PISTOL IN A TRUCK AT A SERVICE STATION WHERE SHAW AND HIS ATTORNEY PARKED THEIR CAR TUESDAY.

THE MAN ARRESTED WAS IDENTIFIED AS JAMES R. LISCOMBE, 30. POLICE SAID HE WAS SEEN PUSHING NEWSMEN AND THREATENING TO "MAKE NATIONAL

HEADLINES IN NEW ORLEANS."

- 20-MAN FORCE OF DEPUT

A 20-MAN FORCE OF DEPUTIES SEARCHED EVERYONE ENTERING THE COURTROOM WEDNESDAY. CITY POLICE WERE ADDED TO THE SECURITY FORCE.

DYMOND ALSO QUESTIONED RUSSO ABOUT HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT AND HIS RECORDS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

GARRISON HAS BOOKED SHAW ON A CHARGE OF "CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER" AND ACCUSED HIM IN AN AFFIDAVIT OF PLOTTING KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION WITH FERRIE AND OSWALD.

SHAW, 54, IS THE FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL TRADE MART.

PICKUP 10TH PGH: AS RUSSO TOOK

DB-JT454PCS..