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BY M. GENE MEARNS

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

NEW ORLEANS (UPI)--A DAPPER, 25-YEAR-OLD INSURANCE SALESMAN TESTIFIED TUESDAY HE HEARD LEE HARVEY OSWALD, DAVID W. FERRIE AND CLAY L. SHAW CONSPIRING TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN SEPTEMBER OF 1963.

PERRY RUSSO, FORMER COLLEGE STUDENT WHO NOW LIVES IN BATON ROUGE, LA., TESTIFIED AT A PRELIMINARY HEARING FOR SHAW, 54-YEAR-OLD FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL TRADE MART.

DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON HAS ACCUSED SHAW OF CONSPIRING AGAINST KENNEDY IN THE MONTHS PRECEDING THE PRESIDENT'S NOV. 22, 1963, ASSASSINATION IN DALLAS.

RUSSO SAID HE ATTENDED A PARTY AT FERRIE'S APARTMENT IN "MID-SEPTEMBER" OF 1963 AT WHICH THE THREE DISCUSSED AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AT LENGTH.

RUSSO'S NAME DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN WASHINGTON AMONG THE HUNDREDS OF PERSONS QUESTIONED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION, WHICH CONCLUDED THAT OSWALD WAS THE LONE ASSASSIN OF

KENNEDY. THE FBI DECLINED COMMENT ON WHETHER IT HAD EVER QUESTIONED RUSSO.

BUT IN A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW ON FEB. 24 IN LOUISIANA, RUSSO DID NOT MENTION THE SEPTEMBER MEETING, ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE ONCE HEARD FERRIE THREATEN TO "GET" KENNEDY.

RUSSO, A MAN ABOUT 5 FEET 9 INCHES TALL, WITH CLOSE-CROPPED HAIR, IN A BROWN IVY LEAGUE SUIT, POINTED OUT SHAW IN THE COURTROOM AS "CLEM BERTRAND," ONE OF THE THREE ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS, AND IDENTIFIED OSWALD AND FERRIE FROM PHOTOGRAPHS AS THE OTHERS.