Russo on Trial For Possession Of Deposit Key

S-1 9/24/70

Perry Raymond Russo, District Attorney Jim Garrison's star witness at the Clay L. Shaw trial, went on trial himself today in Criminal District Court on a charge of illegally possessing a safety deposit box key valued at $1.

Assistant District Attorney Harry Wheeler today contended the key belongs to Alvin E. Fontenberta, 6711 Dorchester, and was taken by Russo Aug. 22.

Russo also was booked with simple burglary of a residence at 4760 Overton Drive where Fontenberta was believed to live but the DA's office refused to charge him on the count.

Russo, 29, gained international notice in the Kennedy assassination conspiracy trial in which Shaw was acquitted.

On the stolen property charge, Wheeler gave written notice to Russo he will introduce into evidence this afternoon alleged confessions and-or inculpatory statements.

Patrolman Justin Favalora was the first witness called by Wheeler and was expected to resume testimony this afternoon.