Garrison Witness Cross-Examined

Plot Date Unknown

NEW OLEANS, La. (AP) — Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's star witness in his assassination conspiracy case against Clay L. Shaw, testified Wednesday that Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie were roommates at the time he heard them plotting with Shaw to kill President John F. Kennedy.

Perry Raymond Russo, a 25-year-old Baton Rouge salesman, said he heard Oswald, Shaw and Ferrie conspiring in Ferrie's apartment in mid-September .63 about how to kill the president and make a getaway.

Under close cross-examintion by F. Irving Dymond, one of Shaw's attorneys, Russo said he could not remember the exact date the alleged plotting took place.

Dymond asked if a man named Leyton Martens was Ferrie's roommate at the time.

"No, sir," Russo answered.

Q. What was the name of the roommate?

A. The roommate at the Louisiana Avenue Parkway apartment was Leon Oswald.

Oswald's widow said in Dallas on Wednesday she had never heard of Ferrie or Shaw while she lived in New Orleans.

In earlier testimony, Russo identified pictures of Lee Harvey Oswald as those of the man he knew as Leon Oswald.

Russo said he saw Oswald at the apartment three or four times. Asked the last time he saw him there, Russo said, "In the middle of October or late September."

"Are you aware it is a documented fact that Oswald left New Orleans Sept. 25 (.63) and in fact never returned?" Dymond said.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Charles Ward shouted: "That has never been proved in this court, your honor."

At that point, Dymond stood up with a book in his hand.

Presiding Judge Bernard J. Bagert exclaimed: "You're not going to introduce the Warren Commission report in this court at this time are you?"

"That's right, I am," Dymond said.

"You are wrong," Bagert said. "You are overruled."

The preliminary hearing,

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which began Tuesday, is to determine if Garrison has sufficient evidence against Shaw to warrant a trial. Wednesday's session adjourned late in the afternoon until a.m. Thursday.

During Wednesday's cross-examination, Russo was asked if it was true that Ferrie once had threatened his life, as a result of "intervening with a friend."

A. He wanted to talk to Al alone. I said no. Ferrie said, 'I'm going to get you.'

Q. How do you interpret that remark now?

A. Now I interpret it was not a threat on my life.

Q. At the beginning of .65 how did yout feel?

A. I no longer took it as a threat.

Dymond then asked if Russo had told television newsman Jim Kemp on Feb. 24 that Ferrie threatened his life.

A. Yes, I told him something to that effect.

Q. Why did you tell Kemp that it was a threat against your life, you now don't take it as a threat?

A. I took it as a threat at that time.