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'Plot' Figure Hypnotized 3 Times, Coroner Says

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP) — The coroner of Orleans Parish testified today that Perry R. Russo, the state witness who says he heard Clay L. Shaw conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy, had been hypnotized in his office two days before the current courtroom proceedings began.

Dr. Nicholas Chetta said Russo, a 25-year-old insurance salesman, underwent hypnosis through the use of sodium pentothal on Feb. 28 at Mercy Hospital, on March 2 in the office of Asst. Dist. Atty. Charles Ward, and on Sunday in the coroner's office.

Russo told the three-judge Criminal District Court Tuesday that he heard Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie talking in September 1963 of how to kill President Kennedy.

Alvin Oser, an assistant to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, began questioning Chetta about details of Russo's comments while under hypnosis. The defense objected.

"Your honor, he's getting out of the realm of sanity of this witness and is trying to bolster the credibility of the witness and I object," said F. Irvin Dymond.

The preliminary hearing was called by Garrison to determine if sufficient evidence exists to take Shaw, a 54-year-old retired executive, to trial.

Garrison has stated he will prove that an assassination conspiracy was hatched in New Orleans and that it culminated in the death of Kennedy.

At the start of today's hearing, C. W. Johnson, district director of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, brought two documents into the court after being subpoenaed by the defense.

He had a record of a Cuban named Manuel Garcia Gonzales who entered this country as a refugee and another of a Manuel Garcia Gonzales who came to the United States as a temporary visitor. It was not clear if the records pertained to the same individual.