

'Bertrand' Was Made Up, Jury Is Told

From News Dispatches

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 25—A pudgy lawyer who said "my mouth ran ahead of my brain" testified today that he made up the name "Clay Bertrand" and a story that Bertrand tried to get an attorney for Lee Harvey Oswald after President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

"I can't give you any explanation," said Dean A. Andrews Jr., a defense witness at Clay Shaw's trial on a charge of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy.

"Once you make a fool outa yourself you're stuck with it," Andrews said.

Andrews convicted of perjury in August, 1967, said his testimony before a Warren Commission investigator and a grand jury was "page after page of bull."

"In other words, it is page after page of lies?" asked Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock.

See SHAW, A4, Col. 3

Witness Tells Jury in Shaw Trial He Made Up 'Clay Bertrand' Alias

SHAW, From A1

"If you want to call it that, that's your privilege," Andrews retorted.

"Bertrand" is the alias that District Attorney Jim Garrison contends Shaw used in plotting President Kennedy's death with Oswald and David W. Ferrie, a former airline pilot. Both Oswald and Ferrie are dead.

Talked to Friend

It was Andrews' story that first injected "Clay Bertrand" into the investigation. Andrews told a Federal agent in 1963 he received a call from a man by that name who wanted a lawyer for Oswald, arrested soon after Mr. Kennedy's murder in Dallas and charged with the slaying.

On the witness stand today, Andrews testified he talked by telephone Nov. 23, 1963, with a friend Gene Davis. During the conversation, Andrews said, either he or Davis said something about Oswald.

"I never can remember what I said," Andrews said.

Q. You mean to tell me that no one called you on behalf of Lee Harvey Oswald?

A. Per se, yes. The phone call I received was from Gene Davis and involved the sale of an auto.

Represented Oswald

During the conversation, Andrews confided, the subject of Oswald came up. Andrews had earlier represented Oswald on a minor legal matter.

"I was in the hospital," Andrews said. "I suggested I could be famous and go to Dallas and defend Lee Harvey Oswald."

The next day, Andrews said, he called the FBI and the Secret Service to tell them he had once done some work for Oswald. Andrews said he was under sedation during the course of the interview with the FBI agent and he told agent Regis Kennedy that "Clay Bertrand" suggested he go to Dallas and represent Oswald.

Andrews said that during the course of his interview with the FBI "it dawned on

me I could involve an innocent man in a lot of humbug," and he suddenly gave Kennedy the name "Clay Bertrand" instead of Davis. The FBI never could locate Bertrand.

Andrews testified he used the name Bertrand because in the 1950s he had heard Davis jokingly introduced by that name at "a fag wedding" in the French Quarter.

Andrews said he realized then that the introduction was a joke because he had known Davis for years. Davis testified at the Andrews perjury trial in 1967 that he had never used the alias "Clay Bertrand."

Andrews said he had been "carrying on the farce" about Bertrand until it got out of hand. He was convicted of perjury in 1967 in connection with his grand jury testimony about Bertrand. His 18-month sentence is being appealed.

Letter to Washington

Referring to his testimony to the Warren Commission, Andrews said, "I don't know what I said. I might have believed it (that Davis asked him to go to Dallas).

"Would it be fair to say you can take your testimony before the Warren Commission and throw it in the ash can?" asked Alcock.

"Part of it is square, the part about Oswald coming to my office," Andrews said.

Andrews said Oswald had asked him to do legal work on several occasions. Once he said, Oswald asked him to write a letter to Washington but never paid Andrews' \$25 fee. So, Andrews said, he never wrote the letter.