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Johnson Says Meetings Held

With Oswald, Shaw, Cuban He Asserts

A lay-minister who ran unsuccessfully for Louisiana governor in 1963 said in his three-room South Mississippi cabin Thursday night that he had attended two meetings in 1963 during which Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby, Clay L. Shaw and an unidentified Cuban were also present.

The Rev. Clyde Johnson, who is also a Kentwood merchant, had earlier refused to come to New Orleans for questioning in connection with the presidential assassination probe of District Attorney Jim Garrison.

A subpoena ordering Johnson to appear in Garrison's office at 10 a. m. Thursday had been issued the day before, but was not served to him. He said he was not coming to New Orleans for reasons of his own.

Speaking in his darkened cabin seven miles below McComb, Miss., and one block off Hwy. 51, the 35-year-old self-ordained minister announced that he planned to come to New Orleans Tuesday to make public statements to the press, but would not specify where he plans to hold the conference or at what time.

CLAIMS MEETING

According to Johnson, a native of Hinds County, Miss., he was present at a meeting in the Roosevelt Hotel during the summer of 1963 during which the others were present.

Since that time, Oswald, the New Orleans native named by the Warren Commission of killing President John F. Kennedy, has been killed by Ruby who himself died earlier this year, of cancer. Shaw, a 54-year-old retired business figure, is accused by Garrison of taking part in a conspiracy here to murder Kennedy.

Johnson, an "also ran" as an

independent candidate for governor in 1963, spoke Thursday night from the bed of his small cabin, and refused to turn on the bedroom light because he said he was afraid. A reporter for The Times-Picayune stood in the cabin's bathroom as Johnson answered questions from the bedroom.

"Shaw and me are the only

ones that know about it now," he said, referring to the fact that Oswald and Ruby are now dead.

ALIAS ASSERTED

The minister said Shaw was called "Alton Bernard" at the alleged gatherings, the second of which he said took place about Sept. 29, 1963, at the Capital House Hotel in Baton Rouge.

In a cryptic remark, Johnson said, "The meeting was a mistake," but he would not elaborate.

He said Oswald was called "Leon" at the alleged gatherings, and Ruby was referred to as "Jack."

Contacted after Johnson had made the statement, Shaw attorney William Wegmann said he would not comment "one way or the other" on the claims.

ALLEGED SHOOTING

During the same month in which the alleged second meeting took place, Johnson was hospitalized in Monroe as the result of a car accident which he said happened after he had been shot at by occupants of the car which had trailed him from near Columbia, Miss.

He said at that time he heard sounds like "cap pistols" coming from the other car that

caused him to dive to the floor of his own vehicle. His car then went out of control and smashed into a bridge abutment.

Earlier, Johnson maintained that he was not breaking the law by not appearing in New Orleans since no subpoena had been served on him.

The minister, who lives in the birth-place of accused conspirator Clay L. Shaw, appeared in court at Amite Thursday for trial on a property damage suit filed against him by Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co.

The suit charges the minister damaged a telephone. Tangipahoa Parish sheriff's deputies said the trial was re-scheduled for the September term of court.