

Woman Disputing Russo's Testimony Ordered Arrested

Part 3/28/67
NEW ORLEANS, March 27 (UPI)—District Attorney Jim Garrison's office obtained a court order today for the arrest of a former New Orleans woman who contradicted testimony of Garrison's star witness against businessman Clay L. Shaw.

Bond was set at \$5000 for Sandra Moffitt, "alias Lilly Mae McMaines," of Omaha, Neb. She was ordered picked up as a material witness in Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Perry R. Russo, a 25-year-old Baton Rouge, La., insurance salesman, testified in Shaw's preliminary hearing March 14-17 that he attended a party with Miss Moffitt in September of 1963 at which he said Shaw, the late David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald plotted Kennedy's death.

But the young woman told newsmen in Omaha last week that she did not go to the party and that she never met Ferrie until 1965.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr., who will preside when Shaw becomes the first man ever tried as a conspirator in the Kennedy assassination, advised Garrison's office and defense attorneys today not to make any further public statements about Clay's possible innocence, guilt or evidence in the case.

In Bismarck, N.D., an attorney told a judge he was forced off a highway early today by a pistol pointed by a pursuer as he drove here with documents that "tend to prove or in some cases do prove"

that persons other than Oswald killed President Kennedy.

The attorney, David R. Kroman, 43, was found partially conscious—a loaded shotgun across his knees—in a rented car on the shoulder of a highway about 30 miles east of Bismarck.

He told newsmen in a hospital room that he would reveal the name of Kennedy's killer within the next few days. He said he has been in touch with Garrison in New Orleans.

In court Kroman told U.S. District Judge Edward Devitt that he was convinced the highway incident was connected with his investigation of the Kennedy assassination and not with his trial before Devitt in an alleged \$3 million insurance fraud conspiracy.

Kroman told Devitt, who temporarily interrupted the conspiracy trial, that two automobiles began following his car about 80 miles west of Minneapolis early today as he drove toward Bismarck. As he neared Bismarck, he said, one of the pursuing cars drew abreast of his and he saw a pistol pointed at his head.

"I would either be shot or I would go off the road," Kroman said. "I went off the road."

He said state troopers had salvaged his documents.

Kroman presented a letter from Dr. Gerb Fischer, a neurosurgeon, which said he had been admitted with paralysis of the left arm and leg, which cleared in six hours. The letter said the patient left the

hospital "against medical advice" and without a full examination.

Kroman's attorney, Richard E. Olson, earlier quoted Fischer as saying that Kroman apparently had suffered an epileptic seizure.

Kroman's testimony was on a prosecution motion to revoke his \$5000 bond "because of this and other incidents." Kroman, a onetime lawyer for the Minnesota Insurance Department, said the government move was "an attempt to shut me up."

The judge did not rule immediately on the government's motion.