



PERRY R. RUSSO

RUSSO DISPUTES NBC BROADCAST

Witness Says He Told
Truth About Plot

Perry Raymond Russo Tuesday disputed parts of a National Broadcasting Co. program concerning District Attorney Jim Garrison's assassination investigation and said he had always told the "absolute truth" while testifying in the case.

Russo, principal witness in a hearing in which businessman Clay L. Shaw was ordered held over for trial on a charge of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy, answered newsmen's questions at a press conference in the office of Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock.

NBC quoted Russo as saying he had not told the truth when he testified that Shaw conspired with Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie.

Russo denied making the statement; and whenever a reporter pointedly asked him if he had always told the truth while under oath in the criminal district courts building, he replied, "The absolute truth."

Russo, fielding questions confidently, identified the three persons who contacted him on behalf of NBC as Walter Sheridan, of the NBC news staff, Richard Townley, of WDSU-TV at New Orleans and Saturday Evening Post writer James Phelan.

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Sheridan appeared on Monday night's NBC program critical of Garrison's investigation and quoted Russo as saying he was sorry he ever got into the investigation.

WORDS 'TWISTED'

Tuesday, Russo said that Sheridan "twisted" what he said. Russo said he meant that he was disgusted with effects on his personal life. "He twisted it around," Russo said of Sheridan and his report.

WDSU reporter Jim Michie and his camera crew were excluded from the press conference. When Russo, flanked by a number of district attorney's assistants, exited from the office, he made no replies to Michie's questions.

Russo said he has never ac-

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tually taken a lie detector test. It was one of NBC's contentions that Russo gave information that was not certified by a lie detector test.

Russo said the operator could not get a positive reaction on preliminary test questions.

He also said that positive reactions again failed to appear on test questions Monday in the criminal courts building during another polygraph examination attempt.

'HIGHLY NERVOUS'

Leonard Gurvich, a partner in Gurvich Brothers detective agency, said Russo was "highly nervous" when he attempted to give him a polygraph test several months ago.

Russo quoted WDSU newsman Townley as having told him that the NBC group was working with Shaw's defense in an effort to wreck the state's case.

Russo also said that members of the trio told him that both NBC and the Central Intelligence Agency were "out to wreck the Garrison investigation."

Garrison charged that Kennedy was murdered by anti-Castroites who previously worked for the CIA and that the CIA covered up the fact.

Townley, Phelan and Sheridan made repeated visits to his home, Russo said, to try to persuade him to appear on NBC's documentary program. However, Russo said he was always in contact with the district attorney's office about these visits.

"I never met with any of these people without knowledge on the part of the district attorney," Russo said.

Russo said that "Sheridan offered to set me up in California, protect my job and guarantee that Garrison would never get me extradited back to Louisiana."

Ed Planer, news director of

bonds of \$80,000 have been reduced by law to recognizance and in the sincere interest of justice, I hereby make you my final offer to testify before your New Orleans Grand Jury on all matters pertinent or impertinent to your office and your current investigation into your alleged John F. Kennedy assassination conspiracy and its related prosecutions.

"This proposal is made solely in view of your past actions and past actions of your grand jury and the number, nature and strange backgrounds and character of the witnesses for the prosecution in the cases of the State of Louisiana vs. Dean Andrews, Esquire, and Clay Shaw, Richard Townley, Walter Sheridan, myself, et al.

"AS I DO NOT legally or otherwise ever have to return to Louisiana due to your ineptness in not sending any legal or factual extradition papers to Ohio for my return in the allotted legal time of three months, and as I am sure you would like the opportunity to vindicate yourself and your office of my to-date-substantiated charges of fraud, malicious prosecution and malfeasance of public office, I hereby submit my one and only simple term for your astute consideration:

"To wit:

"I, Gordon Novel, do hereby

offer to voluntarily return to Louisiana to voluntarily testify before your New Orleans grand jury on any question relative to your legal or verbal charges against Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw, David Ferrie, Sergio Arcacha Smith, Dean Andrews, Layton Martens, Walter Sheridan, Richard Townley, NBC, the FBI, the CIA or myself, with the sole provision that in the interest of your often-stated desire for unperjured "legal scientific objective truth and justice," I be administered by your Dr. Esmond Fadder (sic), (with prior clinical isolation and medical supervision) the same truth serum and-or hypnosis given by your office to Mr. Perry Raymond Russo and that while under the influence of those objective, scientific veracity con-

trols and while on your office's polygraph, I give answer to yourself on any and all questions while under oath in the presence of your grand jury, and that these tests and their results be made part of the official record.

"MR. GARRISON, it is my most earnest desire to separate this matter of a conspiracy to assassinate John F. Kennedy in the United States of America into either fact or fraud, fiction and fabrication.

"As I intend to take a needed long vacation, you have 72 hours to accept or reject this final offer to testify as your most important material witness."

In other probe developments, subpoenas were going out today to witnesses for both state and defense in the perjury trial of attorney Dean A. Andrews Jr., to begin here Wednesday in the court of Criminal District Judge Frank J. Shea.

Attorney Sam Monk Zelden, defense counsel for Andrews, today asked for subpoenas to be sent out to two new witnesses.

The subpoenas are being issued to David L. Chandler, 724 Gov. Nicholls, a reporter for Life magazine, and Sam DePino, a reporter for WVUE-TV of New Orleans.

EARLIER, IT WAS learned that the state has been blocked in its attempts to have former Warren Commission attorney Wesley J. Leibeler return to New Orleans for the trial.

A district court judge at Brattleboro, Vt., denied the DA's request after Leibeler said he had personal business conflicting with the trial dates. Leibeler had declined to come to New Orleans voluntarily.

DRIVERS YOUNGER

WASHINGTON — A Bureau of Public Roads survey found that two states, Montana and North Dakota, issue restricted driving licenses to 13-year-olds. Fifteen other states permit 14-year-olds to drive a car.