

State Claims Sheridan 'Deal'

CHICAGO (AP)—A defendant of James Earl Ray, Teamsters Union leader, testified Friday that a justice department aide of Robert F. Kennedy offered him evidence of government wiretapping in exchange for his help in discrediting Jim Garrison, New Orleans district attorney.

Zachary "Red" Strate, a New Orleans builder, was called to the witness stand at the hearing ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court to determine whether illegally obtained government evidence was instrumental in the 1964 conviction of James Earl Ray.

Strate said he was contacted by Sheridan and offered \$100,000 to help discredit Garrison. He said he was a member of the Kennedy assassination committee.

Strate said he was given evidence of government wiretapping and was promised a new trial if he helped discredit Garrison. He said he was in Chicago at the time of the hearing and was with Jim Garrison.

Strate said he was given the name of a person who was involved in the Kennedy assassination. He said he was given a list of names and was told to contact them.

Strate, who said he was the builder of Miami's plus Four (Amebleau Hotel), told Judge Richard B. Austin of U.S. District Court, "We left without agreeing to anything."

"I thought the Supreme Court had given me enough information to get a new trial," Strate said.

In response to a question from Maurice Walsh, chief counsel for Hoffa, Strate said, "I gather Sheridan was working for Robert Kennedy. He said he was interested in stopping the name of the Kennedy assassin from being cleared."

At a hearing in New Orleans, Strate said he was given a list of names and was told to contact them. He said he was given a list of names and was told to contact them.

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the defense and is scheduled to testify at Monday's hearing. Hoffa was sentenced to five years in prison and fined \$100,000 for mail fraud and conspiracy in a multimillion-dollar Teamsters Union pension fund.

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