

# Hand Over Shaw's Head Was Hearing High Point

Most Dramatic Scene of  
Four-Day Session

By PAUL ATKINSON

"Mr. Russo, will you walk behind the defense table and place your hand over the man you knew as Bertrand," said District Atty. Jim Garrison.

Perry R. Russo stepped down from the witness stand and walked slowly around the table. The jammed courtroom, already quiet, grew quieter.

Finally, Russo, a 25-year-old Baton Rouge insurance salesman who came out of nowhere to become Garrison's star witness in the preliminary hearing that eventually bound over Clay L. Shaw for trial for alleged participation in a conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy, was standing behind white-haired Shaw, former managing director of the International Trade Mart.

Russo lifted his hand, palm outstretched, and put it over Shaw's head. Emotionless and still holding a cigarette in his hand, Shaw looked straight ahead. Russo threw a glance over his shoulder at Garrison.

Spectators and press alike started a low murmur. A court attache called for quiet.

Recalling that dramatic scene Tuesday—easily the emotional high point of the four-day hearing—a reporter said simply, "it was strictly out of Perry Mason."

Garrison, apparently impressed with the significance of the gesture, had a 29-year-old Negro admitted narcotics addict,

Vernon Bundy, repeat in Friday afternoon in identifying Shaw as the man who allegedly passed a roll of bills to Lee Harvey Oswald on the lakefront in the summer of 1963. But it didn't have the dramatic impact of Russo's hand over Shaw's head.

Leafing through his notebook, a reporter also recalls these high moments of drama:

—Huge, hulking Garrison handing a bolt action rifle equipped with a telescopic sight to Russo. Garrison asked Russo to tell him what was different and

what was similar to the rifle Russo testified he saw a person he named as "Leon Oswald" polishing in the apartment of David Ferrie in 1963.

—Judge Bernard J. Bagert, speaking for the three-judge panel, refusing to admit the Warren Commission report into the record. Twice, defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond sought to introduce it, but Bagert intoned Friday, "If we admit this (referring to the report), we've wasted four days." Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara was willing to admit the report into the record, but this vote was nullified by Judge Matthew S. Braniff, who said the report was "filled with heresay."

—Russo, standing in front of

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the jury box, all eyes riveted on him, and listening to tape recordings of interviews with him. He stood with his arms crossed, barely moving through a nine-minute tape.

—The three judges filing into the courtroom at 5:41 p.m. Fri-

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day with the fateful decision. panel felt the state (Garrison's Shaw, as he had been through office) had enough evidence to the hearing, was nearly emotion- bind over Shaw for trial. Still, less as Bagert. The judge, in a Shaw reflected no emotion. preliminary to the decision, said Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. said something to Shaw and he wanted no outburst or running to get out of the court- a faint smile finally crossed the room. Then he read that the huge man's lips.



## DA Shows Rifle to Witness

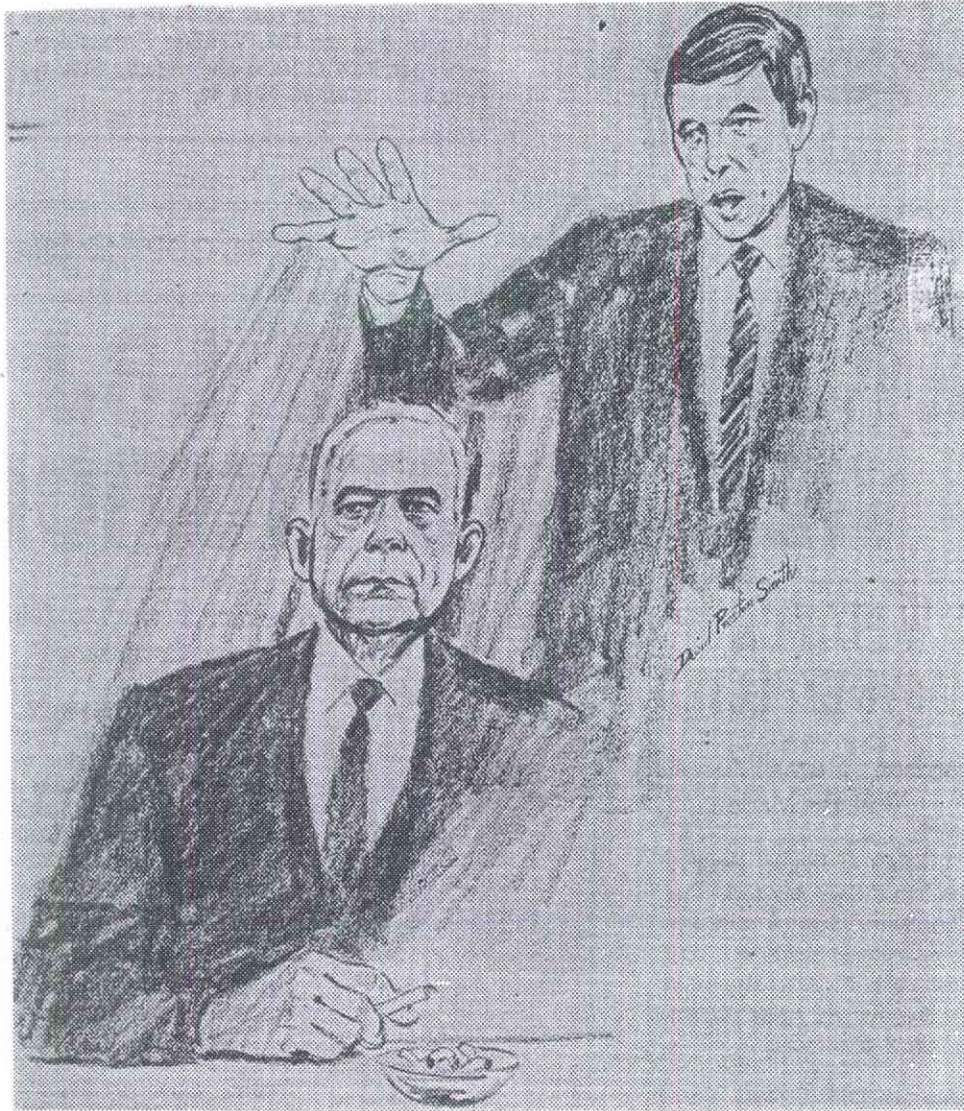


DISTRICT ATTORNEY Jim Garrison (right) shows Perry Russo a bolt action rifle with a telescopic sight in one of the dramatic moments of the Clay L. Shaw hearing this past

—Sketch by David P. Smith.  
week. A three-judge court has agreed that Shaw should stand trial for an alleged conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.



## High Point of Shaw Hearing



**MANY PERSONS** feel the dramatic high point of the preliminary hearing in which Clay L. Shaw was bound over for allegedly conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy came when star state witness Perry

—Sketch by David P. Smith.  
Russo held his hand, palm outstretched, over the head of Shaw. Artist David P. Smith, working from eyewitness reports and photos, captured the drama in this sketch.