# Russo's Tells of

By Preston McGraw United Press International

day that State witness Perry Oswald and Ferrie. Russo had admitted he could not identify Clay L. Shaw as ing on a story concerning Gara conspirator in the death of rison's investigation, Phelan bra's first interview with Rus- by Shaw. President John F. Kennedy, said he talked with Russo who so, who was later to testify he but that the witness was afraid told him he could not identify to change his story because Shaw. he feared recriminations from District Attorney Jim Garri-

Perry Raymond Russo, Garrison's key witness in his case against Shaw, had refused an offer to meet Shaw and identify him.

Phelan quoted Russo as say-

ing: he was not the man. And if I knew he was not the man what could I do . . . I could not live with myself."

Phelan said Russo told him that if Garrison heard of plans to arrange a meeting with Shaw, Garrison "would clobber me."

### Key Witness

From the start of Garrison's investigation into the assassi- Sciambra Memo nation of President Kennedy, Russo has been his key wit-the man who signed a guest-ness. His testimony makes up book in New Orleans airport much of Garrison's case against Shaw, who is charged Kennedy.

the trial that he saw Shaw, | Phelan, who was working on a private consultant is \$250 a who he said was using the a story on the Shaw case for day. NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 26-A name "Clay Bertrand," plot- the Saturday Evening Post, magazine writer testified to-ting Kennedy's death with said Garrison gave him a ups of a page from the airport

### 'Fear of Reprisals'

"Did Mr. Russo ever express Writer's Testimony Writer James Phelan said fear of reprisals from Jim erry Raymond Russo, Garri-Garrison," defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond asked Phelan. "Yes, he did," Phelan said.

"What did he say," Dymond asked.

"He said he kept agonizing, he replied that he was sorry "I knew that if I got into a he had ever come forward as room and talked with him a witness. But he said if he his report on his interview (Shaw) I knew I would know changed his story Mr. Garrison would charge him with something and he was afraid of losing his job."

Defense lawyers, attacking frontally the State's charge "Clem Bertrand" to kill Mr. Kennedy, also put a handwriting expert who testified in the Lindbergh kidnaping case on the stand today.

He testified Shaw was not "Clay Bertrand" in 1966.

And a friend of Shaw's who with conspiring with Lee Har-took his mail during a 1966

saw Shaw. Lee Oswald and lier testified she saw Shaw David W. Ferrie plotting the writing the name "Bertrand" President's death in 1963.

Phelan said he went to Garrison and told him the dis- every letter was different. crepancy between Russo's testimony at a preliminary hearing on the memo. Garrison summoned Sciambra and William Gurvich, also an investigator for Garrison.

"I told Mr. Sciambra that in nation plot, about Shaw know-Defense lawyers, attacking frontally the State's charge that Shaw conspired under the name "Clay Bertrand" or "Clay Bertrand" or "Clay Bertrand" or "Clay Bertrand" or "Clay Bertrand" to kill Mr. der belding Richer totals.

> FBI agent from 1924 to 1948, livered to Biddison's address broke the Lindbergh kidnap at 1414 Chartres st. in the ing case by identifying speci. French Quarter while Shaw mens of Bruno Richard Haupt- was in Europe. mann's writing as the same as that on the Lindbergh kidnap note.

# Signatures Different

done although his usual fee as or "Clay Bertrand."

Appel showed the jury blowmemo from Assistant District guestbook with the name While in New Orleans work- Attorney Andrew Sciambra. "Clay Bertrand" written on it, The memo detailed Sciam- and the same name as written

> A hostess at the airport earin the book.

Appel said the manner of writing of the two exhibits was so dissimilar that almost

"The entry in the book was made by some other writer en-tirely," he said.

## **Business Friend**

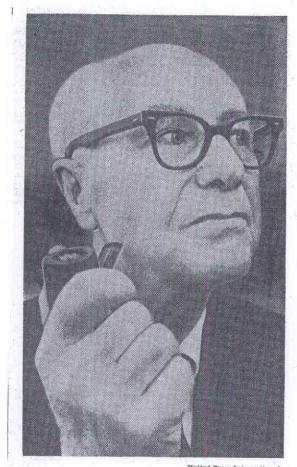
Arthur Jefferson Biddison, a tall, athletic looking man with wavy, dark-brown hair and a with Russo in Baton Rouge resonant baritone voice, testithere was no information fied he and Shaw had been whatsoever about an assassi- business and social friends for 23 years and he had never

der, balding Phelan testified.
The handwriting expert,
Charles A. Appel Jr., a special

Hardiman said he had delivered several letters dressed to "Clem Bertrand" to the Charters Street address.

Biddison testified that he
He said he was testifying in looked at every piece of mail with conspiring with Lee Hair took his hair during a 1500 try bey Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie to assassinate Mr. Kennedy.

The Said he was contracted the Shaw case free because he because he sent important letters to "Bertrand were de-"an injustice" from being none was addressed to "Clem"



United Press International Handwriting expert Charles Appel who testified yesterday in the Shaw conspiracy trial relaxes with a pipe.