

Shaw Denies Plotting Kennedy Slaying

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Clay L. Shaw testified today he never saw Lee Harvey Oswald or David W. Ferrie and certainly never conspired with them to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Shaw, 55, a 6-foot-4, white-haired, retired businessman, stepped up in the climax of the defense case to deny the charge that he plotted to kill Kennedy. He sat relaxed in the witness chair, looking at the jury, speaking in a smooth bass tone.

With defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond putting the questions, Shaw denied step-by-step every bit of testimony against him in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's conspiracy case.

- Q. Did you ever see Lee Harvey Oswald?
 A. I never have.
- Denies Seeing Ferrie
- Q. Did you ever see David W. Ferrie?
 A. I never did.
- Q. Did you ever know Perry Raymond Russo?
 A. No.
- Q. Have you ever attended a



CLAY SHAW

town of Clinton, La. (A prosecution witness testified he saw Shaw with Oswald and Ferrie in Clinton.)

- A. I have never been to Clinton.
- Q. Were you an enemy of President Kennedy?
 A. Certainly not.
- Q. Were you a supporter of President Kennedy?
 A. I was. I believed in him.
- Didn't Sign Book, He Says
- Asked if he ever signed the guest book at the New Orleans International Airport's VIP Room as Clay Bertrand, Shaw replied:

"No, I didn't know that room existed until this trial."
 Bertrand is the name that Garrison contends Shaw used as an alias during the alleged conspiracy.

Shaw testified that he had never been known as Clay Bertrand or Clem Bertrand.

Asked if he had ever used any name other than Clay Shaw, he replied: "No, with the exception of a play I wrote in the 1950s in

which I used the pen name Allen White. That was the maiden name of my two grandmothers."

- Q. Did you conspire with Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie to assassinate the President of the United States?
 A. No, I did not.
- Yesterday, a New Orleans police officer testified that Russo, the state's star witness, told him in a June 17, 1967, interview that Shaw was not the man he saw at the party where the alleged plot was hatched.

Lt. Edward O'Donnell testified that when Garrison confronted Russo two days later with the police report on the interview, Russo "did a relapse. He said he was afraid Garrison would charge him with perjury."
 O'Donnell was the second witness to depict Russo as a man beset by uncertainty.

"He kept agonizing," said James R. Pheasant, a magazine writer from Long Beach, Calif. "You."

"He repeatedly said he was sorry he had come forward as a witness, that he felt trapped and that if he tried to change his story now, Garrison probably would charge him with something. . . ."

Put Through Test

O'Donnell's official interview of Russo was made immediately after he put the swarthy, 27-year-old New Orleans book salesman through a polygraph test at the request of the district attorney.

"Did you ask him why he testified as he did at the preliminary hearing if he wasn't sure of his testimony?" asked defense lawyer F. Irvin Dymond.

"Yes," said O'Donnell. "He said when he got to court he came with all intention of telling the truth and you turned him on by asking him if he believed in God. . . . He said he decided at that time he was going to bury