Shaw Witness Concedes Plot Had Air of a 'Bull Session'

By Don McKee

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 10 (AP)—Star prosecution witness Perry Raymond Russo testified today that a 1963 conversation, which forms the core of the State's conspiracy case against Clay Shaw, could easily have been "an inconsequential bull session."

Russo said under cross-examination that he had told several persons the discussion he heard involving Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald might not have been serious.

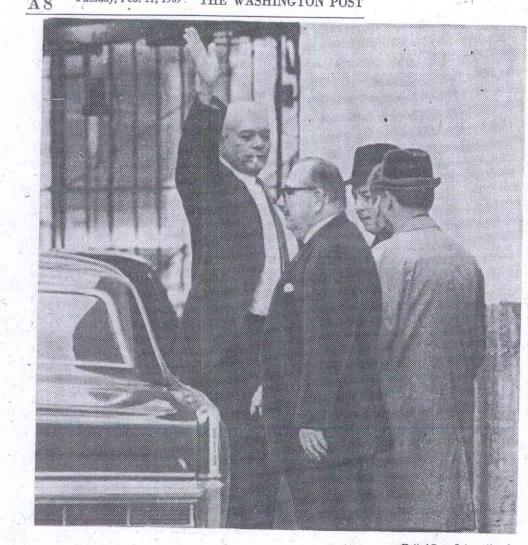
It had "every characteristic" of a bull session, he said Russo, 27, a dark-haired sixfooter, told of attending a party in September 1963 at which he said Shaw joined with Oswald and David W. Ferrie, a former airline pilot, in discussing how to kill President Kennedy by crossfire after a diversionary shot. The 55-year-old Shaw, re-

The 55-year-old Shaw, retired managing director of the International Trade Mart in New Orleans, is on trial on a charge of conspiring to assassinate Kennedy. Shaw's lawyer says the defendant never knew Oswald or Ferrie.

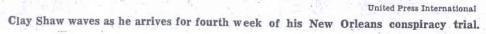
See SHAW, A8, Col. 4



Associated Press Perry Raymond Russo, star witness in Shaw case.



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Vitness Tells of 'Bull Session' JFK Plot

mer President Eisenhower, graph of Uswald as the man place in t the president of Mexico and known as Ferrie's roommate defendant? later, Kennedy. He said he roommate had whiskers and around a thought Ferrie was "a little coveral days" months for and around a sion? really take this seriously? crazy." ary, 1967. tion any assassination conspircharacteristics of a bull sesnot believe him. lieve Ferrie and you couldn't There were these exchanges: Chief defense counsel F. He said repeated attempts by nedy's name on them . . . Irvin Dymond pressed Russo. an artist to make an Oswald Q. And what was David tions, and had mentioned for-mer President Eisenhower, was obsessed with assassinaairplane and alibis. diversionary shots, escape by Ferrie talked about crossfire, "All I told him was that there Russo said Shaw, Oswald and acy in his first contact with A. Initially, you couldn't be-eve Ferrie and you couldn't be-pants in the 1963 meeting at some kind of Latin, or Span-ferrie's apartment. Q. Isn't it a fact you didn't failed. A. Every characteristic. Russo said he did not men-Q. Didn't this have all the he gave at a 1967 hearing after telling how this projected as-Russo testified that Ferrie he didn't keep quiet. He said on cross-examinal around saying they were going months before Kennedy was shot . . . and the other two but into evidence by the shot were going months before Kennedy was shot . . . and the other two but into evidence by the second b On SHAW, From A1 direct examniation, Andrew Sciambra, an assistant ory, said Shaw was using the out the assassination of Ken- "Ferrie knows what he's talk-district attorney, he said. name "Clem Bertrand." In the nedy. He told them about ing about. He's a pilot." d' "I didn't make that all clear Shaw as the man called Ber- man demonstrated holding about being about of the said shaw as the man called Berto Mr. Sciambra," Russo said. trand. hypnosis "refreshed" his mem- sassination team would carry several days' growth of beard, with him'... I could see Ken: Mexico). was similar to the measured was similar to the measured with him's new or the set of the prosecution, Russo said ficulty in identifying a photo-graph of Oswald as the man place in the presence of the A The photo into a perfect likeness rie saying? But he said Oswald, Ferrie forth on the floor. He carried Russo said he had great dif- Russo: ish, recording playing . . . He said? James Q. What conversation took They were to be fired simulta- introduced as "Ferrie's room-A. Well, he paced back and Q. And what was David Fer. anything? The meeting, Russo said, up three fingers.) talked of "going to the coast." The meeting, Russo said, "He (Ferrie) said perhaps Russo identified both Oswald of the coast." Alcock questioned trand-to shut up. He said, going to Houston," Russo said ant objected to that. He said it meeting, he visited Ferrie wouldn't be possible to fly out again and Oswald was there. of the area. "He was leaving town, had his fied that Ferrie suggested es- scopic sight. Handed a rifle by added. (Russo demonstrated, holding about alibis. He said Shaw Q. Well, then was anything stuff all packed up. A. Oswald told him-Ber- mentioned, that Oswald was A. At that time, the defend- days after A. They were. (Russo testiz polishing a rifle with a tele-Q. And the last two shots. the first time he saw Oswald said, or Oswald said, or it was was similar to the one Oswald mate," Oswald was cleaning or four days' growth." He said Russo testified that a few the apartment Ferrie

viewed in the same month by

subsequently inter-

son's office in February, 1967. Neither did he mention it

District Attorney Jim Garri-

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