

Sniper Witness Claims He Saw 2 on Balcony

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By JACK DEMPSEY

A prominent New Orleans businessman has told Police Supt. Clarence B. Giarrusso that he saw two persons—one with a handgun—on the 17th floor balcony of the Downtown Howard Johnson's Motor Hotel the day of the sniper tragedy.

The man, who asked that he remain unidentified, said he believes one of the persons light skinned and may have been white. The witness told his story to Giarrusso in a letter.

The man said he and a friend from Georgia saw two persons on the balcony from his office on Perdido Street.

He said his attention first was attracted to the hotel when he heard three gunshots soon after a fire truck ar-

rived. The first two shots were loud, he related, while the third was less noisy.

The witness said his back was to the window of his office at the time. When he turned, he said, he saw a man on the balcony with a handgun, firing down to the street.

He described the gunman as light-skinned, tall and heavy, and clad in khaki clothes.

Moments later, the businessman said, a second person joined the gunman on the balcony. The room was afire at this time, he said.

The second man was smaller and darker, and was not armed, according to the man's account.

He said the man returned to the room and stepped out on the balcony once again before both disappeared into the ho-

tel. He said three other rooms started blazing shortly after the pair left the balcony.