

EA118!NU

(TELEGRAPH EDITORS: THIS OPTIONAL NL BRINGS THE NAME OF FERRIE INTO THE LEAD, FOR THOSE NEWSPAPER DESIRING SUCH A CHANGE.)

HEARING OPTIONAL 3RD NL

BY BILL CRIDER

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 14 (AP)-DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT" TOLD A THREE-JUDGE CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT PANEL TODAY HE HEARD LEE HARVEY OSWALD, CLAY SHAW AND DAVID FERRIE PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO, 25, AN INSURANCE SALESMAN FROM BATON ROUGE, TESTIFIED HE WAS IN FERRIE'S APARTMENT HERE IN SEPTEMBER 1963 AND LISTENED TO A DISCUSSION OF HOW TO KILL KENNEDY AND MAKE A GETAWAY.

RUSSO 3RD GRAF A77NU.

G17PCS

EA77NU

HEARING 2ND NL BJT

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RUSSO SAID THE PLOT INVOLVED "TRIANGULATION OF CROSSFIRE," DIVERSIONARY SHOOTING, A POSSIBLE FLIGHT TO CUBA AND THE SACRIFICING OF ONE MAN AS A SCAPEGOAT TO ALLOW THE OTHERS TO ESCAPE.

KENNEDY WAS KILLED IN DALLAS ON NOV. 22, 1963--TWO MONTHS AFTER THE ALLEGED MEETING IN FERRIE'S CLUTTERED APARTMENT NOT FAR FROM NEW ORLEANS' ELEGANT GARDEN DISTRICT.

THE WARREN COMMISSION SAID OSWALD WAS THE LONE ASSASSIN, AND THERE WAS NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE OF ANY CONSPIRACY.

OF THE THREE ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS, ONLY SHAW IS ALIVE. OSWALD WAS KILLED BY JACK RUBY TWO DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, AND FERRIE DIED IN BED FEB. 22.

SHAW HAS DENIED TAKING PART IN ANY CONSPIRACY TO KILL THE PRESIDENT, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN WASHINGTON SAID THE FBI INVESTIGATED SHAW LATE IN 1963 AND CLEARED HIM OF ANY LINK TO THE ASSASSINATION.

~~PROSECUTOR~~ <sup>COUSIN</sup> RUSSO, A PART-TIME COLLEGE STUDENT WHO LIVES WITH A YOUNGER NEAR THE CAMPUS OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY IN BATON ROUGE, WAS DESCRIBED AS "A NICE YOUNG KID" BY A NEIGHBOR. A FELLOW STUDENT AT LSU SAID HE WAS "A QUIET TYPE WHO IS INTERESTED IN POLITICS."

RUSSO WAS FIRST PUBLICLY CONNECTED WITH THE GARRISON PROBE ON FEB. 24, WHEN HE TOLD NEWSMEN HE KNEW FERRIE.

UNDER QUESTIONING TODAY ETC 3RD GRAF A33NU.

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A33NU

SUB INTRO NEW ORLEANS HEARING N L BJT  
BY BILL CRIDER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 14 (AP)-A JITTERY STATE WITNESS TOLD A THREE-JUDGE STATE PANEL TODAY HE WAS IN A NEW ORLEANS APARTMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1963 AND HEARD LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND TWO OTHER MEN PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO ETC 2ND GRAF A30NU  
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BY BILL CRIDER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 14 (AP)-A JITT

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Y STATE WITNESS

TOLD A THREE-JUDGE STATE PANEL TODAY HE WAS PRESENT WHEN LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND TWO OTHER MEN PLOTTED IN A NEW ORLEAND APARTMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1963 TO KILL PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO, 25, A BATON ROUGE INSURANCEMAN, SAID OSWALD, CLAY L. SHAW AND DAVID W. FERRIE WERE THE CONSPIRATORS.

UNDER THE QUESTIONING BY DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON, RUSSO SAID OSWALD WAS INTRODUCED TO HIM AS "LEON OSWALD" AND SHAW AS "CLEM BERTRAND."

SHOWN A PHOTOGRAPH BY GARRISON, RUSSO IDENTIFIED LEON AS LEE HARVEY OSWALD--THE MAN THE WARREN COMMISSION NAMED AS THE ASSASSIN.

ASKED IF CLEM BERTRAND WAS IN THE COURTROOM, RUSSO POINTED AT SHAW. AT GARRISON'S DIRECTION, HE STEPPED FROM THE WITNESS CHAIR, WALKED AROUND THE DEFENSE TABLE AND HELD HIS HAND OVER SHAW'S SILVERY WHITE HAIR.

THE 54-YEAR-OLD SHAW, CALMLY SMOKING A CIGARETTE, DIDN'T MOVE. FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE MART HERE, HE HAS DENIED ANY PART IN AN ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS KILLED BY HIGH-POWERED RIFLE BULLETS IN DALLAS NOV. 22, 1963--SOME TWO MONTHS AFTER THE ALLEGED MEETING HERE.

(11:30, after the party)  
RUSSO SAID HE FIRST SAW LEE HARVEY OSWALD IN FERRIE'S APARTMENT, AND THAT OSWALD WAS "WIPING OR CLENING A RIFLE, BOLT ACTION. IT HAD A SIGHT ON IT FOR HUNTING."

GARRISON SHOWED RUSSO A RIFLE AND ASKED IF IT HAD SIMILARITIES TO THE ONE OSWALD HELD IN FERRIE'S APARTMENT.

RUSSO SAID: "THE DIFFERENCE TO MY MIND IS THAT THIS END (FRONT) WAS NOT NEARLY SO BUBBLE SHAPED." HE SAID THE WEAPON HAD THE SAME BOLT ACTION, BUT A SHINIER STOCK, AND ITS TELESCOPIC SIGHT WAS LARGER THAN THE ONE ON THE RIFLE OSWALD HAD.

RUSSO SAID HE HAD SEEN BERTRAND IN MAY 1962 WHEN PRESIDENT KENNEDY DEDICATED A NEW WHARF IN NEW ORLEANS, AND SAID "NEW ORLEANS MUST TRADE OR FADE."

"I WAS IN SCHOOL," RUSSO SAID. "THE PRESIDENT WAS COMING DOWN TO MAKE A SPEECH. AT THAT TIME I SAW BERTRAND. WHILE THE

PRESIDENT WAS SPEAKING I WAS LOOKING AROUND. BERTRAND WAS ONE OF THE FEW NOT LOOKING AT THE PRESIDENT."

POLICE ESTIMATED 20,000 PERSONS ATTENDED THE DEDICATION.

RUSSO SAID THAT AFTER HE CONTACTED GARRISON FOLLOWING FERRIE'S DEATH, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TOOK HIM TO "A HOUSE ON DAUPHINE STREET." SHAW LIVES AT 1313 DAUPHINE STREET. "HE STUCK HIS HEAD OUT THE DOOR AND I SAID, 'THAT'S THE MAN,'" RUSSO SAID, REFERRING TO BERTRAND.

THE HEARING RECESSED AT 3:30 P.M. UNTIL 10 A.M. WEDNESDAY. THE DEFENSE ISSUED SUBPOENAS FOR RUSSO'S SCHOOL AND EMPLOYMENT RECORDS.

A30NU

THE RARE THREE-JUDGE CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT PANEL WAS CALLED TO HEAR THE PRELIMINARY CASE AND DECIDE WHETHER THERE IS ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO WARRANT FORMAL CHARGE AND TRIAL FOR SHAW, NOW RETIRED.



SHAW WAS ARRESTED IN GARRISON'S OFFICE ON MARCH 1. HE WAS BOOKED -- BUT NEVER FORMALLY CHARGED -- WITH CONSPIRING TO KILL THE PRESIDENT. SUCH PROCEDURE IS COMMON UNDER LOUISIANA LAW.

SHAW, ONETIME ARMY MAJOR WAS FREED ON \$10,000 BOND SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARREST.

FERRIE, A FORMER AIRLINES PILOT, WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS BED FEB. 22. THE CORONER RULED DEATH RESULTED FROM NATURAL CAUSES.

AFTER LEADING RUSSO THROUGH A BRIEF SUMMARY OF HIS EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND PRESENT JOB, GARRISON ASKED IF HE KNEW FERRIE.

RUSSO SAID HE NOT ONLY KNEW FERRIE BUT HAD AN "OPEN BOOK INVITATION" TO VISIT FERRIE'S APARTMENT AT ANY TIME.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS IN THE SUMMER OF 1963 THAT FERRIE "INDICATED TO ME THAT HE WAS OBSESSED WITH KENNEDY." THIS DREW AN IMMEDIATE OBJECTION AS BEING A CONCLUSION REACHED BY THE WITNESS. THE COURT SUSTAINED THE OBJECTION.

"DON'T TELL US YOUR CONCLUSIONS," RESUMED GARRISON. "WHAT DID FERRIE SAY TO YOU IN REGARD TO KENNEDY."

THIS DREW A NEW OBJECTION, ALSO SUSTAINED.

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GARRISON THEN SWITCHED THE TESTIMONY TO THE APARTMENT PARTY WITH THIS QUERY, "DO YOU RECALL ANYTHING UNUSUAL HAPPENING AT FERRIE'S APARTMENT IN 1963?"

"SOMETIME AROUND THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER I WENT TO THE HOUSE AND AT THAT TIME THERE WAS SOME SORT OF PARTY IN PROGRESS. THERE WERE EIGHT OR NINE PEOPLE THERE. AS THE PARTY DISSIPATED IT NARROWED DOWN TO THREE PEOPLE BESIDE MYSELF BECAUSE I HAD NO RIDE HOME."

AT THIS POINT, GARRISON DREW FROM RUSSO TESTIMONY REGARDING THE IDENTIFICATION OF OSWALD AND SHAW AS LEON OSWALD AND CLEM BERTRAND.

RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT FERRIE, 49, A FREE LANCE PILOT WHO WAS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY GARRISON AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, DID MOST OF THE TALKING ABOUT THE PROPOSED ASSASSINATION.

FERRIE, PACING THE FLOOR, SAID THE ATTEMPT SHOULD HAVE THREE GUNNERS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE "A TRIANGULATION OF CROSS-FIRE," RUSSO TESTIFIED.

HE QUOTED FERRIE AS SAYING THAT ONE MAN WOULD HAVE TO BE SACRIFICED AS SCRAPEGOAT.

FERRIE, RUSSO ADDED, WAS TO BE THE GET-AWAY PILOT, FLYING INTO MEXICO TO REFUEL FOR A FLIGHT TO CUBA.

OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED BY BERTRAND, RUSSO SAID. HE SAID BERTRAM ARGUED THAT AS SOON AS THE SHOTS WERE FIRED "THE WORLD WOULD KNOT ABOUT IT" AND ONCE THE PLANE LANDED IN MEXICO THERE WOULD BE NO WAY TO GET OUT.

THE CROWD IN THE STUFFY paneled courtroom included 74 reporters-- leaving just a few seats for spectators. All of them were carefully checked in and out of the courtroom by 20 sheriff's deputies assigned to maintain tight security. A device to detect metal objects was used to screen everyone entering the courtroom.

Russo's testimony brought vehement objections by the defense that it contained hearsay. The objection was sustained by presiding judge Bernard Bagert, with qualifications.

Asst. Dist. Atty. James Alcock argued that hearsay is admissible at a preliminary hearing -- which seeks only to establish probable cause. The defense, however, said any testimony taken at the preliminary hearing could then be introduced at a subsequent trial and defense lawyers would have no grounds on which to argue against it.

Defense attorney F. Irving Dymond said the main purpose of a preliminary hearing -- called by Garrison in this case -- was to get hearsay testimony past the normal legal barriers against it at a court trial.

After a whispered conference, Judge Bagert said, "We sustain the objection at this time, though it is possible there may be a change later."

In several subsequent objections to alleged hearsay, Dymond was overruled. He then read into the record formal legal exceptions as the basis for a possible appeal.

The 6-foot-6 district attorney, towering over his assistants, arrived for the hearing with his face glowing with fresh sunburn. He sat puffing a pipe during the first stages of the hearing, handled by the assistants.

Garrison took up the questioning when Russo--the secret informant in the case -- was called to the stand.

Russo, a thin, dark, intense-looking man, clutched his hands nervously after taking the witness chair. Garrison, his resonant baritone easily filling the hushed court room, told Russo to speak loudly and clearly and relax.

Russo at times spoke so rapidly the court reporter had to ask him to slow down.

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Russo attended high school and college in New Orleans, where his parents still live. He campaigned here for the Republican Presidential ticket in 1964, and once managed an amateur baseball team called the "Young Republicans."

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