

Slaying Plot Made at Party

By The Associated Press and
United Press International

NEW ORLEANS — Perry Raymond Russo, a witness for District Attorney Jim Garrison, testified at a preliminary hearing today that Clay L. Shaw was one of the three men he heard plotting to kill President Kennedy.

He said he knew Shaw as Clem Bertrand.

On direction of Garrison, Russo walked behind the chair of Shaw in the courtroom. Asked to point out the man he was introduced to as Clay Bertrand, Russo held his hand over Shaw's head.

Russo, a 25 year old insurance salesman from Baton Rouge, said he heard the conversation in the apartment of David W. Ferrie in September 1963.

AT PARTY

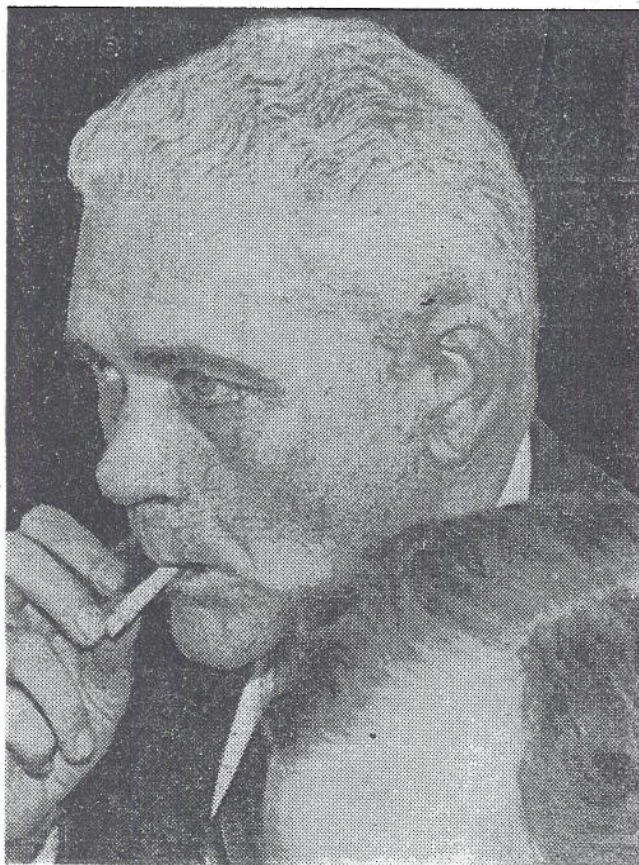
Russo's testimony stamped him as the "confidential informant" cited by Garrison as the source who "saw the conspirators and heard the plans."

Russo said that on the day of the party, he arrived at Ferrie's apartment, to find eight or 10 people drinking and talking. The group finally narrowed down to four, including Russo, Ferrie and two men Russo identified as "Leon Oswald" and "Clem Bertrand."

Garrison had Russo identify photographs of Oswald and Ferrie.

DENIES ROLE

Russo's testimony dropped a bombshell into the proceedings, which previously had been concerned with routine testimony from policemen who had once arrested Oswald, or had photographed Ferrie's apartment.



IDENTIFIED AS JFK MURDER PLOTTER

Clay Shaw as he entered court in New Orleans today

—UPI Photo

Shaw looked straight ahead, impassive. The 54 year old former director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart, has denied any part in an assassination conspiracy.

He was arrested by Garrison on March 1 and released on \$10,000 bond. Today's hearing was to determine if sufficient evidence exists to hold him for trial.

Russo described the talk in Ferrie's apartment in these words:

"David Ferrie began the conversation after some excuse for my being there. He

saying one man "would have to be the scape goat."

Russo described Ferrie as the pilot in the plot. He quoted the former airlines pilot as saying they would go to Mexico and refuel "and on to Brazil and then to Cuba."

Russo said Bertrand interrupted to say that as soon as the shot was fired, "the world would know about it," and they would not be able to get a plane out to Cuba.

INTERRUPTED

Garrison asked Russo to tell the court the background of the assassination.

"I had occasion to have a friend who was in the Civil Air Patrol," Russo said.

At this point, Shaw's attorneys objected on grounds the testimony was hearsay.

A long legal debate followed.

Ferrie was found dead of a brain hemorrhage in his New Orleans apartment Feb. 22, a few days after Garrison mentioned him as a "major figure" in his probe.

Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, was later shot to death by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

began pacing back and forth and talking to Bertrand and Oswald."

"These discussions centered around how the assassination of Kennedy would have to use diversionary tactics."

'SCAPE GOAT'

Russo quoted Ferrie as saying there would be two to three people involved. One person would shoot "diversionary shots," the other would shoot what he said Ferrie termed "the good shot." He quoted Ferrie as

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