



**SAYS HE HEARD ASSASSINATION PLOT**  
Perry R. Russo as he appeared at New Orleans court  
—AP Photo

## Identifies Shaw for Judges

By The Associated Press and  
United Press International

**NEW ORLEANS** — District Attorney Jim Garrison revealed his "confidential informant" today as a 25 year old insurance salesman who said he heard Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw and David W. Ferrie plotting the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963.

Perry Russo, a former student who now lives in Baton Rouge, La., testified at a preliminary hearing for Shaw, the 54 year old former managing director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart.

Garrison has booked Shaw for "conspiracy to commit murder" and accused him in affidavits with conspiring to kill Kennedy.

Russo, a man about 5 feet inches tall, dapper in a brown Ivy League suit, said he attended a party at Ferrie's apartment in "mid-September" of 1963 at which Ferrie advised Shaw and Oswald on how to assassinate Kennedy. He said he knew Shaw as Clem Bertrand.

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.

Shaw, calmly smoking a cigaret, didn't move.

### PICKS PHOTOS

Russo also identified photographs of Oswald and Ferrie. He said he knew Oswald as "Leon Oswald."

Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

Oswald was shot to death two days later by nightclub owner Jack Ruby. Ferrie died of a brain hemorrhage in New Orleans Feb. 22, a few days after Garrison

called him a "major figure" in his assassination probe.

Shaw's lawyers objected to the testimony on the grounds it was all hearsay.

When the objections were

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tuned down, defense attorney William Wegmann said:

"The court is saying the preliminary hearing may be used by the state for going on a fishing expedition."

### NOT MENTIONED

In Washington, the FBI said it had no comment when asked if Russo had ever turned up in its investigation. The Warren Commission's documents make no mention of anyone named Russo.

Russo testified:

That he attended a party in Ferrie's apartment at which eight or 10 people were drinking and talking. The group finally narrowed down to four, he said, including Russo, Ferrie, Oswald, and "Clem Bertrand." Russo said he was present because "I had no ride home."

That Ferrie told Shaw and Oswald that an attempt on the President's life should involve two or three persons, one or two of them to create a diversion, and the third "a good shot."

That one of the assassinations would have to be sacrificed and the others should be "in the public eye" on the day of the assassination. Russo said Ferrie told the others he would be at Southeastern Louisiana College at Hammond, La. Russo said Shaw said he would go to the West Coast on business. (Shaw was in San Francisco attending a meeting of the World Trade Authority the day President Kennedy was assassinated).

That Ferrie pointed out he was a pilot and it might be possible to escape to Mexico and then to Brazil or even Cuba, although he acknowledged there was a risk of hostile fire if a strange plane landed in Cuba.

### LOYOLA GRAD

Russo graduated in 1964 from Loyola University of the South in New Orleans with a degree in political science.

He said he once met Ferrie at a Civil Air Patrol meeting in Kenner, La. He said he knew him since 1960 and they often visited at one another's home.

He said Ferrie was obsessed with Kennedy.

"At his apartment, I saw clippings of the President and his picture," he said.



**CLAY SHAW**

Fingered by witness

"There was always much talk and deliberation."

Three district judges presided at the preliminary hearing, called to determine whether Garrison had enough evidence to hold and try Shaw.

Presiding Judge Bernard J. Bagert repeatedly cautioned Russo to confine his testimony to what he actually heard, and not to what he heard someone else say about a third person.

Bagert called in Judges Malcolm O'Hara and Matthew Braniff to sit with him on the case.

#### **COPS TESTIFY**

Before Russo's testimony, two policemen testified.

Detective Frank Hayward said he arrested Oswald in New Orleans Aug. 9, 1963, after a scuffle with anti-Castro Cubans as Oswald was handing out "Fair Play for Cuba" literature.

Peter Schuster, a police photographer, identified pictures he took of Ferrie's apartment and of the mysterious pilot's body after he was found dead.