

EA78NU URGENT PROBE 2ND NL BJT 200

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15 MAR 1967

BY BILL CRIDER

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ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 15 (AP)--DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S STAR WITNESS IN HIS ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY CASE AGAINST CLAY L. SHAW, TESTIFIED TODAY THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND DAVID W. FERRIE WERE ROOMMATES AT THE TIME HE HEARD THEM PLOTTING WITH SHAW TO KILL JOHN F. KENNEDY.

PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO, A 25-YEAR-OLD BATON ROUGE SALESMAN, SAID HE HEARD OSWALD, SHAW AND FERRIE CONSPIRING IN FERRIE'S APARTMENT IN MID-SEPTEMBER 1963 ABOUT HOW TO KILL THE PRESIDENT AND MAKE A GETAWAY.

UNDER CLOSE CROSS-EXAMINATION BY F. IRVING DYMOND, ONE OF SHAW'S ATTORNEYS, RUSSO SAID HE COULD NOT REMEMBER THE EXACT DATE THE ALLEGED PLOTTING TOOK PLACE.

DYMOND ASKED IF A MAN NAMED LEYTON MARTENS WAS FERRIE'S ROOMMATE AT THE TIME.

"NO, SIR," RUSSO ANSWERED.

Q. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE ROOMMATE?

A. THE ROOMMATE AT THE LOUISIANA AVENUE PARKWAY APARTMENT WAS LEON OSWALD.

OSWALD'S WIDOW SAID IN DALLAS TODAY SHE HAD NEVER HEARD OF FERRIE OR SHAW WHILE SHE LIVED IN NEW ORLEANS.

IN EARLIER TESTIMONY, RUSSO IDENTIFIED PICTURES OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD AS THOSE OF THE MAN HE KNEW AS LEON OSWALD.

RUSSO SAID HE SAW OSWALD AT THE APARTMENT THREE OR FOUR TIMES. ASKED THE LAST TIME HE SAW HIM THERE, RUSSO SAID, "IN THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER OR LATE SEPTEMBER."

"ARE YOU AWARE IT IS A DOCUMENTED FACT THAT OSWALD LEFT NEW ORLEANS SEPT. 25 (1963) AND IN FACT NEVER RETURNED?" DYMOND SAID.

ASST. DIST. ATTY. CHARLES WARD SHOUTED: "THAT HAS NEVER BEEN PROVED IN THIS COURT, YOUR HONOR."

AT THAT POINT, DYMOND STOOD UP WITH A BOOK IN HIS HAND.

PRESIDING JUDGE BERNARD J. BAGERT EXCLAIMED: "YOU'RE NOT GOING TO INTRODUCE THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT IN THIS COURT AT THIS TIME ARE YOU?"

"THAT'S RIGHT, I AM," DYMOND SAID.

"YOU ARE WRONG," BAGERT SAID. "YOU ARE OVERRULED."

THE PRELIMINARY HEARING, WHICH BEGAN YESTERDAY, IS TO DETERMINE

IF GARRISON HAS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE AGAINST SHAW TO WARRANT A TRIAL.  
TODAY'S SESSION ADJOURNED LATE IN THE AFTERNOON UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW.

IN QUESTIONING 4TH GRAF A35NU  
MM456PCS NM

EA35!NU

PROBE NL BJT 300

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NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 15 (AP)-DEFENSE LAWYERS TRIED TO SHOW TODAY THAT  
DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S KENNEDY ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY CASE  
AGAINST CLAY L. SHAW IS FOUNDED ON FANTASY OR LIES.

PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO, 25, A BATON ROUGE INSURANCE SALESMAN, UNDER-  
WENT SHARP CROSS-EXAMINATION DURING THE SECOND DAY OF A PRELIMINARY  
HEARING TO DECIDE IF SHAW SHOULD BE HELD FOR TRIAL.

GARRISON HAS CHARGED SHAW PARTICIPATED WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND  
DAVID W. FERRIE IN A CONSPIRACY TO MURDER PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

IN QUESTIONING AIMED AT SHAKING RUSSO'S CREDIBILITY AS A WITNESS,  
THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHED THAT RUSSO ONCE WAS UNDER PSYCHIATRIC  
TREATMENT.

PROBING CAREFULLY, F. IRVING DYMOND, ONE OF SHAW'S ATTORNEYS, DREW  
FROM RUSSO TESTIMONY THAT HE HAD CONSULTED A PSYCHIATRIST FOR ABOUT TWO  
YEARS, STARTING IN 1959 WHEN HE WAS 13 YEARS OLD.

"WHENEVER YOU WERE UNDER GREAT STRESS . . . YOU WENT TO A PSYCHIA  
TRIST. IS THAT CORRECT?" DYMOND ASKED.

"NO SIR. I WOULDN'T EVALUATE IT THAT WAY," RUSSO REPLIED.

"HOW WOULD YOU EVALUATE IT THEN?"

"WELL, WHENEVER I FELT I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT MY PAST LIFE."

IT WAS RUSSO, PRODUCED YESTERDAY AS GARRISON'S "CONFIDENTIAL  
INFORMANT," WHO TESTIFIED THAT HE HEARD SHAW, LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND  
FERRIE PLOT TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

THE PLOTTING TOOK PLACE, HE SAID, IN FERRIE'S NEW ORLEANS APARTMENT  
IN SEPTEMBER 1963. PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS KILLED IN DALLAS NOV. 22,  
1963, AND OSWALD WAS NAMED AS THE ASSASSIN.

A36NU

RUSSO'S TESTIMONY DID NOT STATE WHEN OR WHERE THE ALLEGED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WOULD TAKE PLACE. THE WARREN COMMISSION NOTED THAT A DALLAS NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCED ON SEPT. 13, 1963, THAT KENNEDY PLANNED TO VISIT FOUR TEXAS CITIES, INCLUDING DALLAS, ON NOVEMBER 21-22.

RUSSO IS THE MAIN STATE WITNESS CALLED THUS FAR IN THE PRELIMINARY HEARING BEFORE A THREE-JUDGE CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT PANEL.

SHAW, 54, A WEALTHY RETIRED EXECUTIVE, WAS ARRESTED MARCH 1 AND BOOKED BY GARRISON ON MURDER CONSPIRACY CHARGES. NO FORMAL CHARGE HAS BEEN FILED, PENDING THE PRELIMINARY HEARING. SHAW WAS FREED ON A \$10,000 BOND.

EA76NU

PROBE NL BJT INSERT 300

NEW ORLEANS PROBE NL BJT INSERT AFTER 14TH GRAF: \$10,000 BOND.

DURING TODAY'S CROSS-EXAMINATION, RUSSO WAS ASKED IF IT WAS TRUE THAT FERRIE ONCE HAD THREATENED HIS LIFE, AS A RESULT OF "INTERVENING WITH A FRIEND."

A. HE WANTED TO TALK TO AL ALONE. I SAID NO. FERRIE SAID, 'I'M GOING TO GET YOU.'

Q. HOW DO YOU INTERPRET THAT REMARK NOW?

A. NOW I INTERPRET IT WAS NOT A THREAT ON MY LIFE.

Q. AT THE BEGINNING OF 1965 HOW DID YOU FEEL?

A. I NO LONGER TOOK IT AS A THREAT.

DYMOND THEN ASKED IF RUSSO HAD TOLD TELEVISION NEWSMAN JIM KEMP FEB. 24 THAT FERRIE THREATENED HIS LIFE.

A. YES, I TOLD HIM SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT.

Q. WHY DID YOU TELL KEMP THAT IT WAS A THREAT AGAINST YOUR LIFE, IF YOU NOW DON'T TAKE IT AS A THREAT?

A. I TOOK IT AS A THREAT AT THAT TIME.

RUSSO BLINKED HIS EYES RAPIDLY AS HE TALKED. OFTEN HE APPEARED NOT TO UNDERSTAND THE QUESTIONS. THE JUDGE SEVERAL TIMES ORDERED HIM TO GIVE DIRECT ANSWERS.

DYMOND QUIZZED RUSSO ABOUT THE PARTY WHICH THE WITNESS SAID TOOK PLACE THE NIGHT HE HEARD FERRIE, OSWALD AND SHAW PLOT TO KILL KENNEDY.

RUSSO SAID THE PARTY TOOK PLACE IN MID-SEPTEMBER BUT HE COULDN'T

REMEMBER THE EXACT DATE.

AT ONE POINT HE SAID HE WAS TAKEN TO THE PARTY BY A FRIEND. LATER HE NAMED A SANDRA MOFFETT AS "THE GIRL I BROUGHT."

EA77NU

IN HIS TESTIMONY YESTERDAY, RUSSO HAD DESCRIBED WHAT FERRIE, SHAW AND OSWALD WERE WEARING. DYMOND ASKED TODAY:

"YOU WERE ABLE TO REMEMBER HOW THEY DRESSED. CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY YOU CAN DESCRIBE THE DRESS OF PEOPLE AT THE PARTY AND CAN NOT EVEN TELL US WHO WENT THERE WITH YOU OR AT WHAT TIME?"

A. BECAUSE OF THE VERY NATURE OF DAVE FERRIE.

Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN.

A. DAVE FERRIE, TO SAY THE LEAST, WAS A VERY INTERESTING PERSONALITY, PRONE TO THE SPECTACULAR. WHEN I MET HIS FRIENDS THEY WERE NOT NORMALLY DRESSED.

Q. DO YOU CONSIDER A WHITE SHIRT AND A MAROON SPORTS JACKET SPECTACULAR?

(WHEN RUSSO WAS QUESTIONED BY GARRISON YESTERDAY, HE SAID SHAW--WHOM HE SAID HE KNEW AS CLEM BERTRAND--WORE A WHITE SHIRT AND A MAROON JACKET.)

A. DAVE FERRIE'S APARTMENT WAS IN SHAMBLES, ASHTRAYS CLUTTERED WITH CIGARETTES. THE SCENE WAS OF CHAOS. THIS MAN (SHAW) DRESSED DIFFERENTLY. HE JUST DIDN'T BELONG THERE BY DRESS.

RUSSO WAS QUIZZED AT THE START OF TODAY'S SESSION AT LENGTH ABOUT HIS BELIEF IN GOD BEFORE PRESIDING JUDGE BERNARD BAGERT CUT OFF THE QUESTIONING.

"THIS IS 16TH GRAF A35NU (ELIMINATING 15TH GRAF; DISPLAYING LITTLE X X X THE QUESTIONING."

G-MM450PCS

DISPLAYING LITTLE OF HIS FIRST DAY NERVOUSNESS, RUSSO WAS QUESTIONED AT LENGTH ABOUT HIS BELIEF IN GOD BEFORE PRESIDING JUDGE BERNARD BAGERT CUT OFF THE QUESTIONING.

"THIS IS NOT A CATECHISM CLASS," BAGERT SAID. "LET'S GET ON WITH THE CASE."

THE CROSS-EXAMINATION BROUGHT SEVERAL SHARP EXCHANGES BETWEEN DYMOND AND THE JUDGES.

"AM I RESTRICTED IN MY EXAMINATION OF THIS WITNESS AS TO CREDIBILITY?" DYMOND ONCE EXCLAIMED.

AT ANOTHER POINT, DYMOND SAID: "WE'RE ENTITLED TO KNOW ALL ABOUT

✓ THIS MAN. WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE WAS GOING TO BE A WITNESS UNTIL HE WAS CALLED INTO COURT. WE HAVE A RIGHT TO FIND OUT ABOUT HIM."

DYMOND ENTERED LEGAL EXCEPTIONS WHEN OVERRULED BY THE COURT, LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A POSSIBLE APPEAL AT A LATER DATE.

A37NU'

THE COURTROOM WAS AGAIN JAMMED WITH NEWSMEN AND SPECTATORS. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WERE TIGHTENED. ALL MEN ENTERING WERE SEARCHED FROM SHOE TOP TO SHOULDER BY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES. WOMEN WERE ONLY REQUIRED TO OPEN THEIR POCKETBOOKS.

SHAW SAT ERECT DURING THE PROCEEDINGS. HE WORE THE SAME DARK BROWN SUIT HE HAD ON YESTERDAY WHEN THE HEARING OPENED.

DYMOND ASKED RUSSO IF HE WAS A STUDENT AT TULANE AT THE TIME HE MET FERRIE.

A. I DON'T REMEMBER. IT WAS EITHER THE FIRST OR SECOND YEAR, ABOUT 1960.

Q. HOW DID YOU MEET HIM?

A. THROUGH AL LANDRY.

✓ RUSSO EXPLAINED THAT LANDRY HAD LEFT HOME. RUSSO SAID HE TALKED TO LANDRY'S PARENTS AND TOLD THEM THAT IF THERE WAS "ANYONE WHO CAN ALIENATE DAVE AND AL, I FELT I COULD."

FERRIE WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS APARTMENT FEB. 22.

HE HAD BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION BY GARRISON'S OFFICE AND TOLD NEWSMEN

V

THAT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY "SUPPOSEDLY HAD ME PEGGED AS THE GET-AWAY PILOT."

FERRIE'S DEATH WAS DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES, SAID CORONER NICHOLAS CHETTA. GARRISON MAINTAINS IT WAS SUICIDE.

RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT HE DROVE TO FERRIE'S HOME IN KENNER--A NEW ORLEANS SUBURB--IN A CAR WITH SOME FRIENDS.

Q. WHEN YOU ARRIVED AT FERRIE'S HOUSE, WHO WAS THERE?

A. DAVID FERRIE AND A BUNCH OF BOYS.

Q. HOW MANY?

A. OH . . . ABOUT 10 OR 12.

A38NU

SHAW, A DECORATED ARMY OFFICER IN WORLD WAR II AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE MART HERE, HAS DENIED TAKING PART IN ANY CONSPIRACY. ATTY. GEN. RAMSAY CLARK SAID THE FBI CLEARED SHAW OF ANY LINK TO THE ASSASSINATION IN 1963 BUT THE FBI WOULD NOT SAY WHAT PROMPTED ITS INVESTIGATION.

SHAW IS THE ONLY ONE OF THE ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS STILL ALIVE. OSWALD WAS SHOT TWO DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION BY JACK RUBY IN THE DALLAS POLICE STATION AS A HORRIFIED NATIONAL TELEVISION AUDIENCE LOOKED ON.

AFTER THE DEFENSE CALLED OFFICIALS FROM TULANE, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY AND LOYOLA UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL TO IDENTIFY RUSSO'S SCHOLASTIC RECORDS, HIS EMPLOYMENT RECORDS WITH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE CO. WERE INTRODUCED IN EVIDENCE.

WHEN RUSSO FIRST TOOK THE WITNESS STAND FOR CROSS-EXAMINATION, DYMOND SAID:

"YOU TOOK AN OATH TO TELL THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH, AND HOW DO YOU DEFINE TRUTH?"

A. I THINK I WOULD BE TELLING THE TRUTH TO THE BEST AS I KNEW IT UNDER PENALTY OF LAW.

Q. UNDER PENALTY OF GOD?

A. GOD IS EVERYTHING. HE IS YOU, ME, EVERYTHING. I CONSIDER MY OATH A PROMISE TO GOD, TO MYSELF, TO EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM."

RUSSO SAID THE LAST TIME HE HAD SEEN A PSYCHIATRIST PROFESSIONALLY WAS "IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER OF 1965."

Q. NOT DURING 1966?

A. WITHOUT SERIOUS THOUGHT I WOULD NOT SAY. MAYBE BY TELEPHONE.

RUSSO WAS ALSO QUESTIONED EXTENSIVELY ABOUT HIS FAMILY AND HIS FINANCES.

G221PCS