

# Hypnosis, Drugs Used On Informer

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Attorneys for Clay I. Shaw finished cross-examining "confidential informant" Perry R. Russo yesterday.

Russo testified that he was hypnotized three times before accusing Shaw of conspiring to kill President Kennedy.

Shaw's lawyer, veteran criminal attorney F. Irvin Dymond, said abruptly, "that's all," after eight hours of grilling the 25-year-old Baton Rouge, La., insurance salesman.

Russo had testified on Tuesday at the opening of Shaw's preliminary hearing that Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald and pilot David Ferrie conspired to kill the President in September, 1963.

He stepped down from the stand yesterday after having admitted he failed to recognize Oswald as "Leon Oswald" — the name he knew him by — for three years and not until a police artist drew a beard on the assassin's picture.

## TREATMENT

He also conceded he had undergone psychiatric treatment, and that Garrison had him hypnotized as late as last Monday, the day before the hearing started.

Garrison has accused Shaw of conspiring to kill Mr. Kennedy. The hearing is to determine whether the district attorney has enough evidence to try him.

Orleans Parish (county) coroner Dr. Nicholas J. Chetta took the stand after Russo left it, and discussed the use of sodium pentothal — "truth serum" — used in at least some of the hypnosis sessions.

Chetta said a patient using the drug is "aided in recalling facts and remembers things he ordinarily would

have forgotten and say things he ordinarily might hold back."

## METHODS

Russo also testified that Ferrie once outlined several different assassination methods including a plan where assassins were stationed in front and back of a theater.

"The man in the back of the group would just fire a shot," Russo said Ferrie explained.

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"When everybody looked around, the front man would make the 'necessary' shot."

He said Ferrie also had another plan, involving three assassins.

Indicating with three fingers, Russo said:

"This man, of necessity, has to be sacrificed to allow these two to go free, or these two have to be sacrificed for this one to go free. All three were going to fire to kill the President. Someone would have to be the scapegoat."

Russo said Ferrie pointed out that during President Eisenhower's term of office, a woman once got close enough to the presidential car in a crowd to try to take Mrs. Eisenhower's purse.

"He said if a person could get that close and had no regard for his own life it would be possible to kill a President," Russo said.

Russo said he watched Shaw through a one-way mirror in the district attorney's office while deciding whether he was the man he knew at the September party as "Clay Bertrand."

## DOOR

Later, he said, he knocked on the door of Shaw's apartment and looked at him while pretending to try to sell him some insurance.

He said he was afraid that he might be harmed while doing this.

"I didn't want anything to happen to me just to identify somebody," he said. "I didn't want to get shot."

He said he gave Shaw a business card with the name "Addon Williams."

"He held the card and looked at me twice and I am sure he recognized me," Russo said. "He said he had company and could not talk about insurance now and then he looked at me and asked, 'what did you say your name was?'"

Russo said he could not remember when each of the hypnosis sessions took place.

## DATES

"The reason I am shying away from the exact dates is because I've been climbing out of fire escapes to avoid



UPI Telephoto

'LEON' OSWALD  
Whiskers were added

publicity," he told Dymond.

Russo said Dr. Esmond A. Fatter, observed by coroner Nicholas J. Chetta, hypnotized him.

"I relaxed . . . sitting down," Russo said. "He questioned me. He talked to me. He relaxed me further. All I remember is being asked questions." He said Fatter "said nice, soothing, relaxing things."

Dymond asked whether Russo knew what a post-hypnotic suggestion is and whether he remembers being instructed to say or do anything after the hypnosis.

"He told me to be very relaxed and come out with a smile on my face," Russo said.

Presumably, Russo was hypnotized to see if he were telling the truth in his story to Garrison investigators that he heard Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie plotting to kill Mr. Kennedy.

Russo, cross-examined hour after hour by Dymond, reported that he sat in on the assassination plot in Ferrie's New Orleans apartment, failed to tell authorities about it, after Mr. Kennedy's murder in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963. He said he even saw Ferrie after that and never even brought up the subject.

"Were you supposed to do something in connection with the plot?" Dymond asked.

"Not that I know of." "Had you indicated any violent feelings against President Kennedy?"

"No." "Did you contribute anything to the assassination plan?"

"No," Russo said.

## DIED

Russo said he saw Ferrie four or five times after the assassination, before Ferrie died of a brain hemorrhage last Feb. 22.

Ferrie was questioned by the Warren Commission in 1964.

"We did not discuss the assassination," Russo said.

"You didn't even know he (Ferrie) had been picked up? You were not curious?" Dymond asked.

"No," Russo said, adding that with Ferrie, "you got out of the habit of asking questions, because Ferrie could always cite chapter and verse and choke off all arguments."

"Did Dave ever say anything about his plan to kill President Kennedy?" Did he ever mention it? Did you ever ask him?" Dymond asked.

Russo said "no" to all three questions.

## COOLER

The courtroom, presided over by Judge Bernard J. Bagert and Judges Matthew Braniff and Malcolm O'Hara, was cooler, less crowded and more orderly yesterday. Deputies stood guard — and stamped a yellow fluorescent ink imprint on every visitor's hand before admitting him.

Deputies directed by Sheriff Louis A. Heyde Jr. also searched the courtroom for electronic devices after reports the sessions had been "bugged."

Heyde said he had found no evidence this was so, and called the report "the rumor of the day."