

'Prompting' Charge in JFK Plot

NEW ORLEANS — (UPI) — Attorneys for Clay Shaw asked a judge today to place Saturday Evening Post writer James Phelan under bond as a material witness, or allow them to take a sworn statement from him before Shaw's trial.

The attorneys said Phelan has agreed to testify that Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's office "prodded" and "prompted" testimony from Perry Russo, a key witness against Shaw.

Russo testified at a preliminary hearing last month he heard Shaw, pilot David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald plotting to murder President John F. Kennedy. Shaw subsequently was indicted by a grand jury on charges of conspiring to assassinate Kennedy.

Shaw's attorney's said the Phelan report "completely destroys the credibility" of Russo.

In the May 6 issue of the

Saturday Evening Post, Phelan says Russo was prompted while drugged or hypnotized to give his testimony.

Assistant District Attorney Anthony Sciambra denied the charge Monday.

Tuesday two newspapers said Gordon Novel, another key figure in the investigation, was acting as a CIA agent during a munitions burglary at Houma, La., in 1961. Novel's attorney denied the story.