

What Have They in Common?

(Third in a Series.)

By HOKE MAY

NEW ORLEANS (NEA) — In his middle 40s, Dean Adams Andrews Jr. is a roly-poly attorney who wears dark glasses constantly and talks in the rhythmic riddles of the hippie generation.

Until last year, he was an assistant district attorney of Jefferson Parish, the burgeoning bedroom of New Orleans which adjoins Jim Garrison's jurisdiction in Orleans Parish.

Now he is a convicted perjurer appealing an 18-month sentence imposed after a New Orleans jury said he lied about his knowledge of a mysterious voice on the telephone which Andrews identified as that of "Clay Bertrand."

He told the Warren Commis-

sion that he was in a New Orleans hospital when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated and that, within hours of the murder, he received a call from a man he knew as Bertrand.

Bertrand, he related, asked him to represent Lee Harvey Oswald, a request which became academic when Carousel Club proprietor Jack Ruby shot Oswald down in the basement of the Dallas jail.

The Bertrand revelation became much more than academic to the Garrison case during March of last year when 25-year-old Baton Rouge insurance man Perry R. Russo (Garrison's star witness to date) raised his hand over the white-thatched head of Clay L. Shaw

at a preliminary hearing.

Shaw, charged by Garrison as a conspirator in Kennedy's death, sat impassively while Russo identified him as "Clem Bertrand," the man he overheard plotting Kennedy's death with Lee Harvey Oswald and onetime airline pilot David W. Ferrie.

The meeting, he said, took place in the apartment where Ferrie was found dead early last year. The time was in September, 1963, less than two months before Kennedy was shot to death, Russo testified.

Three judges agreed there was enough evidence to hold Shaw for trial. The grand jury indicted him and, in another action, charged Andrews with perjury because he refused to agree

that Bertrand and Shaw were the same man.

Andrews, waddling through eager crowds of newsmen and peering through his blue-smoked glasses, had made two appearances before that same grand jury. In one one he said he could not connect Bertrand and Shaw with any certainty because Shaw seemed to be "a taller cat than the other one." Bertrand he had met, Andrews related to the grand jury, at a "gay wedding."

And that was significant, because, in the swinging talk of New Orleans, gay does not mean happy. It means homosexual, the same kind of company in which Andrews told the Warren Commission he first met Oswald.

Oswald and his Russian wife, Marina, were living in this city during the summer of 1963, and Andrews said he first encountered the man who was named as Kennedy's assassin when Oswald came to his office on the 10th floor of a Canal Street building to seek legal counsel.

Oswald was accompanied by a "Mexican guy with a butch haircut," Andrews told the commission, plus some "gay kids." Oswald, he added, did not appear to be gay, but "you can't tell. He is not effeminate; his voice isn't squeaky; he didn't walk and talk like a girl."

But Oswald, said Andrews, "swang with the kids. He didn't swish, but birds of a feather

flock together."

The Bertrand revelations excited speculation over the significance of the pseudonym if that is, indeed, what it was. There are several prevalent theories. The most quoted now is that the name Clem (or Clay) Bertrand is taken from that of Bertrand de Agous, the first French Pope who reigned over the Catholic Church in the early 1300s. Bertrand de Agous, whose chose the name Clement I, was the patron of undesirables.

A New Orleans jury, despite direct denials by Andrews that Bertrands is Shaw (Shaw, himself, has declared publicly he never used the name) agreed with the grand jury and convicted the tubby attorney on five counts.

What other revelations Garrison may have must await the trial of Shaw.

(NEXT: Main Theme for a Conspiracy)



Assistant District Attorney Alcock, standing, and Clay Shaw, right.