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NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 16 (AP)--WHISKERS FOR LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND SOME TOUGH QUESTIONS HAUNTED THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY CASE AGAINST CLAY L. SHAW TODAY.

PERRY R. RUSSO, THE 25-YEAR-OLD INSURANCE SALESMAN TURNED STAR WITNESS, REMAINED ON THE HOT GRIDDLE OF CROSS-EXAMINATION AT THE PRELIMINARY HEARING ON WHETHER SHAW MUST GO TO TRIAL.

SHAW, 54, A WEALTHY RETIRED EXECUTIVE, CHAIN-SMOKED AND WATCHED IMPASSIVELY AS HIS LAWYERS TRIED YESTERDAY TO RUIN RUSSO'S CREDIBILITY.

WHY DID RUSSO WAIT THREE YEARS TO TELL AUTHORITIES ABOUT AN ALLEGED CONSPIRACY TO KILL PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY? DEFENSE ATTORNEY F. IRVIN DYMOND ASKED.

WHY DIDN'T RUSSO RECOGNIZE LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE NEW ORLEANS MAN NAMED AS THE ASSASSIN, FROM TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWN AT THE TIME? ASKED DYMOND.

RUSSO, OF BATON ROUGE, HAD TOLD THE THREE-JUDGE CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT PANEL HE WAS PRESENT IN MID-SEPTEMBER 1963 WHEN SHAW, OSWALD AND DAVID W. FERRIE PLOTTED TO KILL THE PRESIDENT.

KENNEDY WAS SHOT ABOUT TWO MONTHS LATER IN DALLAS.

SHAW, BOOKED BUT NOT FORMALLY CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO MURDER, HAS SAID HE NEVER KNEW OSWALD OR FERRIE. FREE UNDER \$10,000 BOND, HE WAS THE ONLY MAN OF THE THREE NAMED BY RUSSO STILL LIVING.

FERRIE, 49, A FREE-LANCE PILOT WITH A HOMOSEXUAL RECORD, DIED LAST FEB. 22 WHILE UNDER INVESTIGATION BY GARRISON. THE DEATH WAS OFFICIALLY LISTED AS DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES.

OSWALD WAS KILLED IN DALLAS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION.

RUSSO, STOLID UNDER DYMOND'S OFTEN SARDONIC QUESTIONING, SAID OSWALD HAD SEEMED VAGUELY FAMILIAR WHEN HE SAW PHOTOGRAPHS OF HIM IN 1963, BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL "THEY PUT WHISKERS ON HIM" THAT HE KNEW OSWALD WAS THE SAME MAN HE HAD SEEN IN FERRIE'S APARTMENT.

"WHO PUT WHISKERS ON HIM?" SAID DYMOND.

"ONE OF THE ARTISTS," REPLIED RUSSO. HE POINTED OUT A MAN SEATED WITH A CLUSTER OF ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S AT THE PROSECUTION TABLE. GARRISON WAS NOT PRESENT.

DIST. ATTY. JAMES L. ALCOCK AROSE AND HANDED OVER A PICTURE OF A RATHER SHAGGY OSWALD. "PERHAPS THIS WILL HELP THE COURT," HE SAID.

DYMOND HUSTLED OVER TO EXAMINE IT. AT THIS POINT, THE HEARING ADJOURNED, ENDING ITS SECOND DAY.

RUSSO, A DARKLY INTENSE MAN, AGREED UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION THAT HE MUST HAVE SEEN PHOTOGRAPHS OF OSWALD HUNDREDS OF TIMES SINCE THE ASSASSINATION.

"WHAT FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN MAKING YOU SURE THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND FERRIE'S ROOMMATE WERE ONE AND THE SAME?" DEMANDED DYMOND.

RUSSO SAID THE PICTURES HE HAD SEEN WERE OF A NEAT OSWALD, WHEREAS THE "LEON OSWALD" HE HAD SEEN AT FERRIE'S CLUTTERED APARTMENT "WAS HALF SHAVEN, HIS HAIR MUSSED. HE WAS A BEATNIK."

AFTER CONTACTING DIST. ATTY. GARRISON BY LETTER LAST MONTH, HE ADDED, AN AGENT ARRIVED AND BEGAN SHOWING HIM VARIOUS PHOTOGRAPHS OF OSWALD.

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RUSSO SAID HE STOPPED THE PROCESS, AFTER BEING SHOWN A PICTURE OF OSWALD DISHEVELED, AND TOLD THE AGENT:

"THAT'S NOT OSWALD. THAT'S FERRIE'S ROOMMATE."

IT WAS AFTER THIS THAT RUSSO CAME UNDER FULL INTERROGATION BY GARRISON'S STAFF, INCLUDING THE USE OF SODIUM PENTOTHAL--THE SO-CALLED "TRUTH SERUM," A CONTROVERSIAL TERM AMONG SOME PSYCHOLOGISTS WHO SAY IT OFTEN DOES NOT REALLY GUARANTEE TRUE STATEMENTS.

AS TO WHY HE DIDN'T COME FORWARD WITH THE REPORT ON A CONSPIRACY IN 1963, RUSSO SAID HE WAS PRETTY INVOLVED IN SCHOOL WORK AT THE TIME-- A REPLY THAT LEFT DYMOND APPARENTLY AGHAST.

BESIDES, SAID RUSSO, OSWALD WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY JACK RUBY IN A DALLAS POLICE STATION, TWO DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION--AND THE WARREN COMMISSION SAID NO ONE ELSE WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION.

"I DON'T KNOW FERRIE WAS BEING INVESTIGATED UNTIL I SAW A STORY ON THE GARRISON INVESTIGATION IN THE NEWSPAPER," SAID RUSSO.

THIS STATEMENT BY RUSSO LED SOME TO WONDER WHETHER HE REALLY WAS GARRISON'S LEGAL ACE IN THE HOLE.

IN THE FIRST NEWS STORIES ON THE INVESTIGATION, GARRISON WAS SAYING HE WAS CERTAIN OF ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS IN HIS PROBE--WHICH STARTED LAST OCTOBER.

DURING CROSS-EXAMINATION, RUSSO SAID HE LAST SAW OSWALD AT FERRIE'S APARTMENT IN EARLY OCTOBER, 1963.

"ARE YOU AWARE THAT OSWALD LEFT NEW ORLEANS ON THE 25TH OF SEPTEMBER TO GO TO MEXICO AND NEVER RETURNED HERE?" SAID DYMOND.

ASST. DIST. ATTY. CHARLES R. WARD PROMPTLY OBJECTED. OSWALD'S DEPARTURE HAD NEVER BEEN PROVEN IN THIS COURT, HE SAID, AND THEREFORE COULD NOT BE A SUBJECT.

DYMOND SIGNALLED AND ASSISTANTS BEGAN PRODUCING CARDBOARD BOXES.

"YOU ARE NOT GOING TO INTRODUCE THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT ARE YOU?" CRIED JUDGE BERNARD BAGERT.

"YES..." SAID DYMOND.

"YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS ARE YOU?" THE JUDGE SHOUTED.

DYMOND ASSURED HIM HE WAS.

"YOU'RE WRONG! YOU'RE OVERRULED!"

THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT DOCUMENTS OSWALD IN GREAT DETAIL AS TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM NEW ORLEANS AND SUBSEQUENT RELOCATION IN DALLAS, WHERE HIS WIFE AND CHILD WERE LIVING.

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

SECURITY WAS INTENSIFIED AT THE COURTROOM, ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE GRAY STONE CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING. MEN WHO ENTERED WERE FRISKED FROM SHOE TOPS TO SHOULDERS. WOMEN POLICE EXAMINED ^{female} SPECTATORS AND NEWSMEN.