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FBI Won't Buy Russo Plot Story

Chicago Daily News Service

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department and the FBI are not buying the story told by a Baton Rouge, La., insurance salesman about a plot to murder John F. Kennedy.

Spokesmen for both organizations refused to comment on testimony by Perry R. Russo, 25, who says he heard two other New Orleans residents conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald about assassination plans in September, 1963.

The FBI conducted a thorough investigation immediately after Kennedy was slain on Nov. 22, 1963, and found nothing to back up Russo's story.

The Warren Commission found that Oswald, who lived in New Orleans from April to September, 1963, fired the bullets that killed Kennedy in Dallas.

Federal officials said they remain convinced there was no conspiracy behind the assassination. They questioned Russo's credibility, noting he told television newsmen earlier he never knew Oswald.

They suggested Russo's identification of Oswald, through photographs, might be a mistake.

Warren Commission records show the FBI did not question Russo and his name is not mentioned in reports filed in the U.S. archives.