

Trial in JFK Plot Expected

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NEW ORLEANS—District Attorney Jim Garrison tried today to convince a three-judge panel that his star witness tells the same tale of a plot to murder President Kennedy, whether he is under "truth serum" and hypnosis or not.

And it is a measure of the mood of New Orleans that betting odds heavily favor the binding over of retired businessman Clay L. Shaw 54, for trial on a charge of conspiring to kill the President.

The star witness, Perry R. Russo, 25, finished three gruelling days on the stand late yesterday.

The major concession wrung from Russo by Shaw's lawyers was a New Orleans eccentric named David W. Ferrie, and Lee Harvey Oswald actually did not plan to take active parts in the plot Russo says they discussed.

The admission put the plot charges somewhat in the realm of three men in the front row of a baseball stadium being called criminal conspirators because they shout "murder the ump" at about the same time.

FACES 20 YEARS

The difference, of course, is that Russo says Oswald was one of the men, and that a man, the President, was killed.

But Oswald and Ferrie are dead, and Shaw, who so far has had no action alleged against him—only some big talk — is facing a possible 20-year jail term.

On tap today are the usual mixed lot of witnesses:

A coroner qualified by the court as a psychiatrist, although he has passed no psychiatric board examinations

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and had only a few psychiatric courses; and a friend of Ferrie's who the government is calling to back up some of Russo's story.

Possibly the defense may locate for testimony two Cuban exiles who may have been at the "plot party" in mid-September, 1963.

The defense wants to ask about Oswald's alleged presence there.

DEVELOPMENTS

A kernel of truth has been exploded into a bagfull of circus popcorn by these main developments:

- A man who testified before the Warren Commission, Attorney Dean A. Andrews, under indictment since late yesterday on charges of lying to a grand jury, is out on \$1000 bond.

He told the commission he once got a call from a man named "Bertrand," who allegedly is Clay Shaw, asking if he would defend Oswald.

- A Boston dishwasher was reported in New Orleans with a tale and photo that ties together the New Or-

leans "plotters" with Jack Ruby, who shot and killed Oswald.

Every cab driver, drug-store clerk and bellhop in town is talking about the fantastic report, which came over the radio.

Associated Press and United Press International here said they would run the yarn only if ordered to do so—it appeared that spurious.

- A defense attorney, despite a court order not to talk to reporters, heatedly expressed the view that evidence based on hypnosis and "truth serums" had gotten into the hearings that couldn't be blown into a federal court with a shotgun.

He hinted he might seek removal of the case to a forum such as Federal District Court, which is less swayed by the weird spirit of this port city.

- The defense sent out another plea for the whereabouts of "Sandra Moffett," who Russo said was at the 1963 party just before the alleged plotting took place.

The "truth serum" testimony came in under a drumfire of defense objections.

Orleans County Coroner Nicholas P. Chetta said he administered sodium pentathol to Russo while he lay on the operating table at Mercy Hospital here.

AGREED TO DRUG

Russo, who waited three years to come forward with his tale of a conspiracy, gave his consent to the drugging.

Although Garrison, the showman-extraordinary who has engineered the prosecution, was not present in the court, his aides led Chetta to all but testify in open court that Russo told the same tale while under the drug that he told while not under its effect.

Chetta also testified Russo spoke freely and easily while Dr. Esmond Fatter of New Orleans had him under hypnosis, with Russo's consent and at Garrison's bidding.