

'Andrews Lied, Not Bertrand' -- Barman

The man Dean A. Andrews Jr. said is the real Clay Bertrand today emphatically denied that he is and asserted:

"The recent statements by Andrews identifying me as Clay Bertrand are utterly and completely false and malicious and damnable."

Eugene C. Davis, a 42-year-old French Quarter bar owner, added:

"THEY ARE LIES without justification."

Andrews, under indictment for perjury because he would not say that Bertrand is accused presidential murder conspirator Clay L. Shaw, told newsmen yesterday:

"The man who I believe to be . . . Bertrand is Eugene Davis."

Davis replied by going to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's office today and giving a sworn statement in which he denied ever using the name Clay Bertrand.

THE CONTROVERSY was

the latest in a series of sharp contradictions in Garrison's death plot inquiry.

In another development today, the DA faced his adversary and critic, Metropolitan



—States-Item Photo.
EUGENE C. DAVIS

Crime Commission Managing Director Aaron Kohn, behind closed doors.

Kohn, who has asked the state attorney general to investigate the conduct of Garrison's inquiry, was subpoenaed after appearing before the Orleans Parish grand jury yesterday.

HE WALKED INTO Garrison's office about 12:30 p. m. and remained there for more than an hour. Garrison said he had subpoenaed Kohn to his office "so that we can settle his problem."

The first word of Davis being identified as Bertrand came after television newsmen Ed Planer of WDSU-TV appeared before the jury yesterday afternoon.

WDSU-TV's network affiliate, the National Broadcasting Co., aired a program last week in which it declared that its newsmen knew the real name of Bertrand. The network program said Bertrand

(Turn to Page 7, Column 1)

is not Shaw, as Garrison contends, and that the information had been turned over to the U.S. Justice Department.

NBC SAID THE real Bertrand was a "well-known New Orleans businessman" whose identity it was withholding.

Davis, a part owner of Wanda's Seven Seas bar at 704 Iberville, said he was contacted by two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents "a day or two after the NBC broadcast."

He said the men met him at a local drugstore and identified themselves with FBI credentials. They first showed him photographs, he said, and asked him if he recognized the pictures. Davis said he did not.

LATER, HE ADDED, they asked him if he "ever used the name Clay Bertrand or had known of anyone else who used the name."

"I said, 'No,'" Davis declared.

"Before they left," he continued, "one of the men told me, 'I fell sure that you're not Clay Bertrand.'"

Andrews made the identification of Davis as Bertrand while he waited to testify before the grand jury.

SHORTLY AFTER THE Dallas slaying of President Kennedy, Andrews told the Warren Commission he was called by a man he knew as Bertrand and asked to represent accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

Oswald, he said, was shot to death the next day and nothing further came of the matter. He said he could remember seeing Bertrand only twice—once when he tried to stop him for questioning in a French Quarter bar. Andrews said Bertrand slipped away.

Today, Davis said he has known Andrews for 15 years—since the days when the latter would bring his law books into a bar where Davis was working.

"DEAN ANDREWS WOULD come in and sit at the bar, and that was how I met him,"

he said. "He had a set of law books with him and a pad and pencil. He would come in, sit at the bar and read his law books and study because he was a law student then."

He said he has spoken to Andrews many times during the past 15 years and has asked the suspended Jefferson Parish assistant DA to represent him in minor legal matters "like a will."

"He knows my voice, he knows I'm Gene Davis," he declared.

IN HIS SWORN statement, Davis asserted, "I want to state unequivocally for the record that I never used the name Clay Bertrand nor have I called Dean Andrews in reference to representation of Lee Harvey Oswald."

Davis, who said he knew neither Oswald nor Shaw, is 5 feet, 9 inches tall and weighs 165 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes.

Davis' small stature and black hair contrast considerably with the white hair and six-foot, four-inch frame of Shaw.

IN HIS GRAND jury testimony early in the investigation, Andrews said he believed Bertrand was somewhat shorter than Shaw, who is six feet, four inches tall.

As Davis entered the jury room yesterday, he appeared to be much shorter than the 54-year-old New Orleans businessman who is accused of helping plot Kennedy's slaying.

Asked why he had withheld Davis' identity as Bertrand this long, Andrews reverted to his cryptic, swinging jive talk. He indicated he was afraid by declaring:

"**HOW WOULD** you like to have your brains knocked out and be busted down to your toes?"

Later, Andrews said he was trying to protect Davis because "he is not involved in this at all."

Planer, meanwhile, was mum about whether he discussed the identity of Bertrand with the grand jury. The TV news director preceded Davis and Andrews into the secrecy-shrouded jury chambers.

Asked if he knew the identity of the "real Clay Bertrand," Planer replied, "I can't answer a question like that."

THE BERTRAND controversy broke out as critics of Garrison's presidential death plot probe paraded before grand jurors most of yesterday.

After hearing a string of Garrison critics, Davis, a magazine writer and a States-Item reporter, Foreman Albert V. LaBiche emerged from the grand jury room at 9:30 p. m. to announce:

"The grand jury, in its continuing investigation of the Kennedy conspiracy case and the many charges claimed by various principals in news media, heard testimony and has concluded that as of 9:30 p. m. this date, no new evidence has been produced to confirm any of the allegations that have been made to date."

LABICHE said he meant no evidence has been produced to show that Garrison or his office is guilty of false accusations or improper conduct.

The statement came after the jury had heard William Gurvich, a resigned Garrison investigative aide, who charged earlier in the week that Shaw had been falsely accused. Gurvich asked for an opportunity to appear before the grand jury and said he would prove his charges.

LaBiche said Gurvich will be called again when the jury meets in two weeks because his "report wasn't complete today."

Gurvich was preceded into the jury room by Andrews, William Turner, a former FBI agent and magazine writer; Ross Yockey, a States-Item reporter; Davis; Planer and the managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, Aaron Kohn.

Kohn spent an hour and a half with the jury. Kohn and the MCC have asked the state attorney general to investigate the conduct of the DA's probe.

YOCKEY HAS covered the Garrison investigation from near its start. He was believed to have been questioned about information given him by Gurvich which may contradict what the investigator alleges now.

Turner recently authored an article in Ramparts Magazine, in which the writer flatly declared there was a well-organized conspiracy to kill Kennedy at Dallas.

Davis presumably was asked whether he is Bertrand.

A subpoena instanter was issued for Andrews immediately after Davis testified.