

'Was Hypnotized,' Says Star Witness

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — A star state witness in the assassination conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw testified today he had been hypnotized against his will "possibly 50 or 60" times over a 15-year period.

The witness, Charles Spiesel, testified for the state yesterday that in June, 1963, he attended a party here in which Shaw and David W. Ferrie discussed methods of assassinating President John F. Kennedy.

Shaw is accused of conspiring with Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald to murder Kennedy.

Spiesel was cross-examined

by defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond on the basis of a federal court action the witness brought in New York against the Pinkerton Detective Agency and various individuals. Spiesel charged they had tortured him mentally, hypnotized him and deprived him of civil rights.

Dymond asked Spiesel how many people had tried to hypnotize him.

"It would be hard to say," the witness replied.

"If the case ever goes to trial I'll prove each allegation," Spiesel said.

"How many other people

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have hypnotized you?" Dymond asked.

"Possibly 50 or 60, primarily in New York, over 15 or 16 years," Spiesel replied.

"Do you realize it when you're being hypnotized?" Dymond asked.

"I know when they attempt it," Spiesel said.

Dymond asked whether Spiesel had ever been hypnotized in New Orleans.

"I would say from time to time people here in New Orleans have tried to hypnotize me," Spiesel said. "I don't know their identity."

Dymond asked how he knew when they were trying.

"They try to catch my eye — catch my attention," Spiesel replied.

"Did that happen to you down here in 1963?" Dymond asked.

"I've been coming down here since 1962 . . . 1961," Spiesel said.

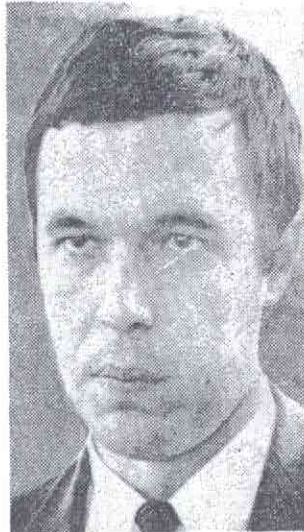
After the cross-examination of Spiesel was completed, the prosecution indicated it was ready to bring up another prime witness to testify that Shaw met with Ferrie and Oswald to plot Kennedy's death.

Perry Raymond Russo, 27, will testify the meeting took place in the apartment of Ferrie. The criminal district court trial of Shaw, a former businessman, went into the third day of testimony today with Russo scheduled as the next witness but with a long period of cross examination of another man to precede him.

According to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, Russo will testify the plot was Kennedy would be killed by crossfire, preferably coming from three men, and one of the gunmen would be sacrificed as a scapegoat to allow the others time to escape.

Shaw is charged with criminal conspiracy with Oswald and Ferrie, both now dead. Kennedy was killed Nov. 22, 1963.

Dymond brought out on



PERRY R. RUSSO
'Heard plotters'

cross-examination that Spiesel had had difficulty with one firm he worked for, and Spiesel replied: "While working there, they used hypnosis on me."

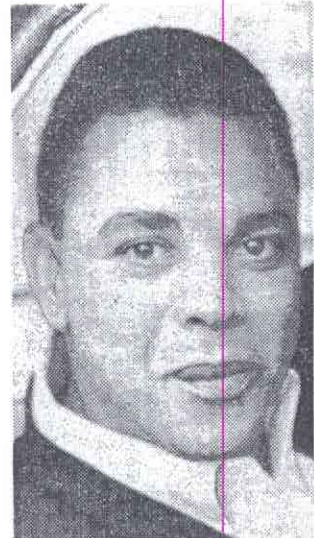
Under Dymond's questioning, Spiesel said he had filed a suit — without a lawyer — a few years ago in New York for \$16 million claiming the New York police had tortured him mentally, hypnotized him and harassed him so that he gave up his business. He said he had also filed suit against a psychiatrist and others.

"Is it a fact," asked Dymond, "that you just recently have been troubled by a Communist conspiracy — following you, tapping your telephones?"

"Not particularly recently," said Spiesel, "it was 1964-65."

For the state, Spiesel testified he had met Ferrie in a bar here in June, 1963, and gone with him to an apartment where Shaw was host at a small gathering in which, finally, 11 or so men sat around an oval table. The conversation turned to President Kennedy and:

"Quite a few criticized him. One man said: 'Somebody ought to murder him.' A man sitting next to Shaw, about



VERNON BUNDY
'Saw Shaw, Oswald'

5-feet-9, with a beard, dirty blond, and a splint on his finger, said: 'Yes, I'd like to do it, but how would you do it?'

"Then everybody at the table started talking how to do it and the consensus came around to a high-powered rifle about a mile away. The same man asked, 'do you really think it can be done?, I had become alarmed and I said: 'Yes, but he would get himself killed.'

"Mr. Shaw said to Ferrie: 'someone could fly him out.' Ferrie hemmed and hawed and then said 'Yes, it could be done.'"

The day ended with Spiesel still being cross-examined. Dymond suggested the jury be taken today to the apartment Spiesel talked about.

The preceding state witness, Vernon W. Bundy, a cleaning shop presser, said he was a heroin addict in 1963. In June, 1963, as he was about to give himself a shot of heroin at a lonely stretch of lake front here, he said he saw Shaw give Oswald what appeared to be money. He had Shaw walk past him in court to demonstrate a slight limp, which he said helped him remember it was the same man who limped by him at the lake.