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Rpt A99 & 100

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Shaw Lead 150

By BILL CRIDER

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS AP - A key state witness at Clay Shaw's conspiracy trial who testified earlier he overheard Shaw and others plot to kill President John F. Kennedy said today he never heard an actual "agreement" to carry out the plot.

Perry Raymond Russo, under cross-examination for the second day, testified he overheard Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie plotting but "I don't know if they agreed."

Russo, 27, a dark-haired New Orleans book salesman, said he was in and out of the room during the party at Ferrie's apartment where he said the assassination was discussed in September 1967.

"You heard only portions of fragments of the conversation since you were in and out of the room?" asked defense lawyer F. Irvin Dymond.

"That's right. They talked. I don't know if they agreed," Russo replied.

Russo came under further questioning about the 3,500-word memorandum of his first official interview in February 1967 with Asst. Dist. Atty. Andrew Sciambra. He said the memo was incomplete and wrong on many points.

"I told, 3rd graf A048

A048

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Shaw 350

By BILL CRIDER

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS AP - A key witness at Clay Shaw's trial testified Monday that his account of overhearing a plot to assassinate President John F. Kennedy was part of his story from the very first.

Perry Raymond Russo, 27, still under cross examination today, said Asst. Dist. Atty. Andrew Sciambra's written report of Russo's first official interrogation was incomplete and wrong on many points.

"I told Sciambra the first time that I had seen Shaw at Nashville Wharf, then at a gas station, and that then I had seen him at Ferrie's apartment," the dark-haired book salesman said.

Sciambra's 3,500-word memorandum to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison on his talk with Russo made no mention of the party where Russo said he overheard Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie plot to kill Kennedy.

It quoted Russo as saying he had seen Shaw twice—not three times—first at a service station operated by Ferrie, next at Nashville Wharf.

Pointing out the mistakes as detailed by Russo, defense lawyer F. Irvin Dymond asked: "Are you sure it was Sciambra you talked with in Baton Rouge?"

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Shaw Lead Sub

NEW ORLEANS Shaw, A099, A043 sub for 6th graf: replied.

In an exchange with Dymond, Russo said he never heard Shaw or Oswald agree to kill Kennedy.

Q. Did you ever hear anyone say he will do it?

A. Dave Ferrie.

Q. Did you ever verbally indicate disagreement with the idea?

A. Well, I told him it wouldn't be possible . . . but I never said it wouldn't be a good idea.

Q. Don't you agree, Mr. Russo, that sometime between mid-September and November of 1963 you should have been worried if you thought there was a plan to kill the President?

A. If I was meeting Ferrie for the first time, maybe I would tell someone. But knowing, I took it for what it was worth.

Q. Because you knew Ferrie you didn't say anything to anyone?

A. That was one of the reasons.

Dymond asked Russo if he had had several conversations with LAYTON Martens, one of four figures in the conspiracy investigation charges with perjury.

"Die you say, wi am not really sure if they were plotting against Castro or Kennedy?"

"Well, I'll have to say yes," said Russo, "but we were talking about the whole thing. They we

as well as Kennedy." e plotting to get Castro, toon

"So you were referring to the summer of 1963 in general?" asked Dymond.

Russo, who had testified that Ferrie frequently talked of killing political figures, said that was correct.

Russo was questioned further about the 3,500-word memorandum of his first official interview in February 1967 with Asst. Dist. Atty. Andrew SCIAMBRA. He said the memo was incomplete and wrong on many poi ts.

The memorandum to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison made no mention of the party where he said he overheard the plot and quoted Russo as sayi g he had seen Shaw twice—not three times as he said later.

Pointing out the mistakes as detailed by Russo, Dymond asked:

"Are you sure it was Sciambra you talked with in Baton Rouge?" Russo's 7th graf A043.

In 8th graf above read it Layton Martens sted Martins.

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Russo's emphatic, "Yes Sir!" was nearly drow ed out by a burst of laughter from newsmen and spectators crowding Judge Edward A. Haggerty's heavily guarded criminal district court.

Asst. Dist. Atty. James L. Alcock, with Sciambra slumped beside his at the prosecutor's table, brought up the memorandum as soon as Russo finished telling how he overheard the plotters at a party in Ferrie's apartment in September, 1963.

"Did you relate to Sciambra what you have told this jury about what happened in David Ferrie's apartment?" asked Alcock.

"Not in great detail but in essence, yes," replied Russo.

"How long did you talk to him?"

"Two hours, two and a half hours."

"Did he take notes?"

"He had a legal pad and he made a few scribbles but no notes, no," said Russo. Inaddition to the omission there were discrepancies, he added. He pointed them out—26 by defense count.

Sciambra's memorandum fell into the hands of newsmen early during Garrison's two-year-old probe. It was one of the things that triggered the first reports critical of the investigation.

Garrison charged Shaw, a 55-year-old retired New Orleans businessman, with conspiring with Oswald and Ferrie to murder Kennedy.

The President was slain in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963. The Warren Commission named Oswald the killer with no credible evidence of a conspiracy.

Editors: Trial resumes at 10 a.m. EST

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