

## Garrison's Star Witness Admits Doubt

*New York Times*

New Orleans

The state's chief witness testified yesterday he had told numerous persons he had doubts that New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw was the man he had heard conspiring in 1963 to murder President Kennedy.

Perry Raymond Russo said at one time he even told a New Orleans police sergeant who had given him a lie-detector test that he would have to answer in the negative if he were forced to say "yes" or "no" to the question as to whether Shaw was at a party where he heard the assassination "conspiracy" discussed.

Russo, a 27-year-old encyclopedia salesman, said he told Sergeant Edward O'Donnell that he had identified

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Shaw positively at a preliminary hearing in March, 1967, because Shaw's chief defense attorney, F. Irvin Dymond, "had gone for the jugular" on cross examination at that hearing.

### TRIAL

The conversation with O'Donnell took place in either June or July, 1967, after Shaw had been ordered to stand trial largely on a basis of Russo's testimony.

Shaw is being tried for conspiring to murder, a charge punishable in Louisiana by one to 20 years in prison.

Russo, who appeared tired and edgy after almost two days of testifying, said also that he never heard Shaw agree to any plot to kill President Kennedy.

The only person he heard mention murdering Kennedy, he said, was David W. Ferrie, a former airline pilot and hypnotist who died shortly after New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison began an investigation of the Presidential assassination.

### KILLING

"We're going to get him," Russo testified he heard Ferrie say.

Neither Shaw nor Lee Harvey Oswald, the others placed at the meeting by Russo, said anything about killing Kennedy, the witness testified.

Although Garrison's claims that the Kennedy assassina-

tion was planned in New Orleans appeared to be collapsing, the district attorney's staff was preparing to introduce evidence from spectators who were on the murder scene in Dallas.

Under a dogged cross examination by Dymond, Russo testified he had told several reporters he had doubts that Shaw was the man he claimed to have seen in Ferrie's apartment in September, 1963.

But he said he was "leading them on" at the request of Garrison, that the district attorney wanted to "see how far they would go."

### PHONE

The district attorney "bugged" his home and his telephone, Russo testified, and an assistant district attorney or a staff member from the district attorney's office would come by daily and collect the tapes of such conversations.

The state objected to a request by the defense that the tape recordings made of conversations between Russo and the reporters be played to the jury.

"They might be full of hearsay," said assistant district attorney James L. Alcock.

Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty, Jr., refused to order the district attorney to produce the recordings.