

Oakland Tribune
Thurs., Feb. 13, 1969 5



JAMES HARDIMAN
Testifies against Clay Shaw

Shaw Trial Conspiracy Phase Ends

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — The state was attempting today to prove a series of acts of intent were performed by Clay L. Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie to further a plot to murder President John F. Kennedy.

But if the jury in the Shaw trial believes firmly only the evidence it has received against him up to today, the state need go no further in its courtroom battle to convict him of conspiring to the assassination.

The prosecution yesterday came to the end of its testimony designed to show a "meeting of the minds" here in September, 1963, between the three men.

Then it introduced testimony to show an overt act by Ferrie — a trip to Houston, Tex., just after the Kennedy slaying — to further the alleged plot.

That is all that's needed under the law of criminal conspiracy. However, the state will try to prove four other such acts, which Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison listed to the all-male jury in his opening address. He also said he will

prove the actual Kennedy murder in 1963 in Dallas was by conspiracy and not by Oswald acting alone.

The state cleaned up its "agreement" case by calling an assistant district attorney, Andrew J. Sciambra, to bolster the testimony of its star witness to the plotting, Perry Raymond Russo.

Russo had listed 21 errors he said Sciambra made in a memo about the state's first interview with Russo, Feb. 25, 1967. Sciambra testified he had not put Russo's story of the conspiracy, and some vital names, into the memo because he had delayed its writing so long it had become "secondary" to a report about Russo's conspiracy story told while under truth serum.

For the first overt-act evidence, the state called R. C. Roland who in 1963 had been president and general manager of an ice rink in Houston. He testified Ferrie had phoned him to make a reservation for himself and two other men for a public skating session.

The party arrived Nov. 23, 1963, the day after the Kennedy murder, he said, and Ferrie "made a little bit of a pest of himself" by constantly announcing his name.

Russo's testimony was that he knew Shaw, through Ferrie, as "Clem Bertrand". Garrison has told the jury he will show that Shaw in 1966 changed his mail delivery address from his own home to that of a longtime friend, Jeff Biddison, and that at least five letters were delivered there addressed to "Clem Bertrand."

The state produced yesterday from a post office clerk testimony of the address change at an unknown date plus a cancellation, moving it back to the Shaw home, on Sept. 21, 1966. When the session ended James Hardiman, a mailman, was still on the stand after having testified he remembered delivery of Shaw's forwarded mail to Biddison and also some letters addressed to "Clay Bertrand".

The alias in question has been referred to as both "Clem Bertrand" and "Clay Bertrand" by different persons.