

'Informant' in Plot Grilled in Closely Guarded Court

By LESLIE H. WHITTEN

World Journal Tribune Special

NEW ORLEANS, March 15—Twenty deputies guarded the courtroom today as defense attorneys began intensive cross-examination of Perry Raymond Russo, the "confidential informant" who testified he heard Clay Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie plotting to kill President John F. Kennedy.

The extra precautions were taken as authorities said phone calls had been made to various persons involved in the case. Sheriff Louis Heyd said he increased security, because of "anticipated trouble."

One of the four lawyers representing Shaw, 54, asked Russo, "Do you believe in God?"

"How do you define God?" responded Russo, 25-year-old insurance salesman, to the lawyer, F. Irving Dymond.

Asked for his own definition, Russo said: "God is everything, the entity of the universe, me, you, everything."

Q. You took an oath to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and how do you define truth?

A. I think I would be telling

Turn to Page 2

WORLD JOURNAL
TRIBUNE
3/15/67

Guard Court As 'Informant' Is Questioned

Continued from Page One

the truth to the best as I knew it under penalty of the law.

Q. Under penalty of God?

A. God is everything. He is you, me, everything. I consider my oath a promise to God, to myself, to everyone in this room.

JUDGE INTERRUPTS

Presiding Judge Bernard J. Bagert cut off the line of questioning by saying: "This is not a catechism class. Let's move on out of this area."

Dymond then quizzed Russo about his family background and finances.

At the start of today's session, Shaw's attorneys questioned officials from Loyola University and law school about Russo's student records.

Frank J. Stass, registrar of the school, testified that Russo once attended the New Orleans

institution. Dean Anthony Pappale of the law school identified records which showed Russo studied law for one year.

Shaw's attorneys today subpoenaed the tap of an interview with Russo made by WSDU-TV in New Orleans Feb. 24, two days after the death of Ferrie. Dwight Martin, vice president of WSDU-TV, brought the tape and a recorder into the courtroom.

In his appearance yesterday, Russo said he was in Ferrie's apartment in September 1963 and heard Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie planning to assassinate Kennedy and make a getaway.

A policewoman and a deputy sheriff searched all persons entering the small courtroom.

Police arrested and booked James R. Liscombe, 30, for making threatening telephone calls. Liscombe is a musician in a Bourbon Street night club.