

Witness in Assassination 'Plot' Says That He Was

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NEW ORLEANS, March 16 —The state's chief witness in an alleged Kennedy assassination plot testified today that investigators had him placed under hypnosis three times before this week's court hearing.

Perry Raymond Russo, 25 years old, told a three-judge panel that he did not remember the dates of the hypnosis sessions but that they took place within two weeks of the hearing.

Mr. Russo's testimony came on a day in which an Orleans Parish grand jury indicted Dean A. Andrews Jr., an attorney, on charges that he had perjured himself during the grand jury's investigation into the alleged assassination conspiracy.

Mr. Andrews was placed under \$1,000 bond and suspended from his job as a part-time assistant district attorney in nearby Jefferson Parish.

"I had bet 8-to-5 I would be indicted and I'm going to collect the money," Mr. Andrews said. "They must think I have the key that turns the lock and unlocks everything. But I don't."

Involvement Denied

Mr. Russo, in ending three days of testimony, denied that he had been involved in a Kennedy assassination plot, the planning of which he said took place here in mid-September, 1963, in the apartment of the late David W. Ferrie, an airline pilot.

He said he had sat quietly while Lee Harvey Oswald, Mr. Ferrie and Clay L. Shaw, discussed killing the President.

Although Mr. Russo gave no details as to why he had been placed in the trances, a close friend said yesterday in Baton Rouge that it had been to jog his memory.

The assistant district at-

torney asked him questions," said Steve Derby, a 20-year-old student at Louisiana State University. "And the more questions he asked the more the story came back to Perry."

The court hearing was called by the three-judge panel to determine whether District Attorney Jim Garrison and his investigators had sufficient evidence against Mr. Shaw, a retired New Orleans business executive, to warrant binding him over for trial.

Staff members of the Warren Commission have said their investigation convinced them that neither Mr. Shaw nor Mr. Ferrie were involved in an assassination conspiracy. The commission concluded that Oswald had killed the President alone and had not been part of any plot.

Mr. Andrews was questioned by an attorney for the commission during its 10-month investigation. In statements to the attorney and the Federal Bureau of Investigation he said, then denied, then said again that Oswald and several Latin-American homosexuals had once been sent to his office by a "Clay Bertrand."

Although the grand jury did not say why it had indicted Mr. Andrews, Mr. Garrison's investigators were known to have repeatedly questioned him in an effort to bolster their contention that Mr. Shaw and Bertrand are the same person. Mr. Andrews said he did not know whether Mr. Shaw and Bertrand were the same man.

Meanwhile, Mr. Russo was questioned at length.

Appearance Questioned

At one point, Mr. Russo testified that Oswald was clean shaven and neatly dressed when he last saw him in October, 1963.

This drew a flurry of questions from the defense because Mr. Russo said yesterday that he was unable to link Oswald

and two New Orleans men in the alleged assassination plot until Mr. Garrison's investigators spent six hours painting whiskers on Oswald's photographs.

The whisker painting was necessary, Mr. Russo said, because at the time of the alleged conspiracy in mid-September of 1963 Oswald had a three-or-four-day growth of whiskers.

But today he testified that "somewhere around the first of October" in 1963 he saw Oswald and that Oswald was clean shaven and was talking of "going to Cuba."

The defense wanted to know why Mr. Russo could not identify Oswald from assassination photographs if he had seen him clean shaven less than two months before the assassination.

Mr. Russo replied that perhaps it was because he had seen Oswald "clean shaven and neatly dressed for only eight or 10 minutes." He said, however, that he had seen Oswald with a three- or four-day growth of beard for a much longer time.

When the defense asked him how long, he said he could not remember.

"What part did you play in this assassination plot?" Irving Dymond, one of the defense attorneys, asked Mr. Russo.

"I had no part," Mr. Russo said. "I never said I wanted to see President Kennedy killed."

"Did you contribute anything to the [assassination] plan that was formulated at that time?" Mr. Dymond asked.

"No sir," was the reply.

"Did anyone," Mr. Dymond continued, "tell you not to say anything about this meeting?"

"No one told me anything," Mr. Russo replied.

Mr. Dymond then asked Mr. Russo if he did not think it strange that three conspirators might let someone sit in on a planning session unless that person was a part of the plot.

Mr. Russo said that Oswald

and Mr. Shaw, whom he said he knew then as "Clem Bertrand," protested but that Mr. Ferrie prevailed upon them to let him stay in the apartment.

"Oswald looked up and said, 'What the hell is he doing here?'" Mr. Russo said, "and a few seconds later Bertrand said, 'It's risky, we shouldn't have anyone here' or that sort of stuff."

"Am I to understand," Mr. Dymond asked later in the day, "that you sat there all through the conversation and said not one word?"

"No sir," Mr. Russo said. Then he said that the conspiracy was "their business, I wasn't particularly interested."

He also said that he frequently went to the window in Mr. Ferrie's apartment where the alleged conspiracy took place to see if "Lefty" Peterson, a friend who drove him to Mr. Ferrie's apartment, had returned to drive him home.

Mr. Dymond pointed out that yesterday Mr. Russo said that he expected Mr. Ferrie might take him home.

Mr. Russo said he could not recall ever saying that and that in any event he did not believe that either Mr. Peterson or Mr. Ferrie drove him home after the alleged conspiratorial meeting.

"I think I caught a bus," he said. "I'm not sure."

During the cross-examination, the defense asked Mr. Russo, a Baton Rouge life insurance salesman, if he could remember the names of any of the "eight or 10" people who were at a "kind of party" that he said took place at Mr. Ferrie's apartment immediately before the alleged conspiratorial meeting.

Mr. Russo said that in addition to Mr. Shaw, Mr. Ferrie and Mr. Oswald, two Cubans—one named Manny and another named Juliano or Oliano—were

Hypnotized

present. He said he could not recall the names of the others.

He said, however, that after the party only three persons—Mr. Shaw, Mr. Ferrie and Oswald—in addition to himself remained at the apartment.

Mr. Ferrie, he went on, talked of "triangulation of crossfire" and said that with three men shooting at the President at least "one man of necessity will have to be sacrificed to let the other two go free, or that two will have to be sacrificed to let one go free."

When the defense asked what three men were to have carried out the assassination, Mr. Russo said "They never did name names, they never did say who was to be here or here or here."

Earlier in the day, the defense asked Mr. Russo if he had been hypnotized on any day since the start of the court hearing on March 14.

"Absolutely not," Mr. Russo said.

He said that he had been placed under hypnosis by a Dr. Fatter [Esmond A. Fatter] in the presence of Dr. Nicholas Chetta, the Orleans Parish coroner.

"What did Dr. Fatter do," the defense asked.

"He questioned me," Mr. Russo said. "He talked to me. All I remember is being asked questions."

The defense said later that records on a Manuel Garcia Gonzalez and a Julio Buznero had been subpoenaed from the Department of Immigration and Naturalization.

Dr. Chetta took the stand after Mr. Russo and testified that he was present when physicians gave Mr. Russo sodium pentathol.

This substance is sometimes referred to as "truth serum." Dr. Chetta said it produced "a drug-induced state of hypnosis" that helped a person "recall things that he would not ordinarily recall."
