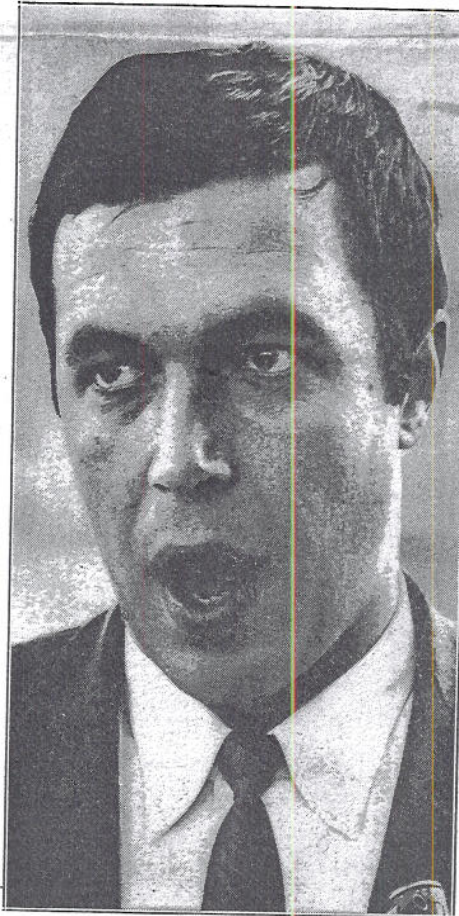


Mystery Witness Talks

FINGERS THREE IN JFK 'PLOT'



Businessman Clay Shaw, 54, arrives at court house in New Orleans for preliminary hearing at which he was dramatically linked with Lee Harvey Oswald in the assassination of President Kennedy. District Attorney Jim Garrison supported his charge of an assassination plot by producing his mystery witness, insurance salesman Perry R. Russo, 25, who told the hearing that Oswald and Shaw discussed the murder of Kennedy two months before the Dallas tragedy.

Story on page 2

Perry Russo—mystery witness produced by DA Jim Garrison

Associated Press Wirephotos

Lynda and George See 'Mame'



Lynda Bird Johnson and actor George Hamilton sit in limousine in front of the Winter Garden Theatre last night as they left after seeing the hit musical, "Mame." Secret Service men sped them away.

Warren Probers Stand Pat

New Orleans, March 14 (Special) — The Warren Commission's investigators tonight angrily dismissed Perry Russo's sensational testimony as a case of mistaken identity or, more likely, an overactive imagination.

The investigators, who spent months here retracing every footstep taken by Lee Harvey Oswald, found absolutely no evidence that Oswald ever met Russo.

"We can't prove from what we know right now that this didn't happen," said one source. "But if anything like this existed, I know we would have come across some trace of it during the investigation."

FBI Is Silent

In Washington, the FBI would say only: "No comment." There was no sign that the official investigation for the Warren Commission was being reopened.

"It comes down to one man's word (Russo's) against another's (Clay Shaw)," explained one veteran of the probe. "The other two people supposed to be involved (Oswald and David Ferrie) are dead."

Commission staff members, FBI

agents and local police who took part in the Warren probe just couldn't believe that a figure supposedly as important as Russo had not been picked up in their huge dragnet.

An Oswald Look-Alike?

The "mistaken identity" theory was based on a report circulating in New Orleans in recent weeks that District Attorney Jim Garrison has been seeking a man who looks like Oswald but lives in New Orleans, moving in the odd circles familiar to Shaw and Ferrie.

This raised the possibility that Russo might have seen an Oswald look-alike with Shaw and Ferrie, and convinced himself that this was the assassin.

Here's why the Warren probers were so hard to shake: — On Nov. 23, 1963, the day after Kennedy's assassination, dozens of FBI agents swarmed into New

Orleans to unearth everything they could about Oswald's life there.

They knew he had been arrested in New Orleans on Aug. 11, 1963 while distributing literature for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

Oswald's Past Probed

For nearly six months, the FBI force worked in New Orleans while similar investigations went on in Dallas, Mexico City and every other place where Oswald had been.

For the first few weeks, the investigators tried to establish exactly what had happened in Dallas. For months after that they tried to establish what had NOT happened.

Of course, it is harder to prove the things which didn't happen or couldn't have happened. That's the reason Russo's story today left the old pros so frustrated and angry, tonight.

House Unit Cool As Fowler Asks 7% Tax Credit

By CHARLES RABB

Washington, March 14 (NEWS Bureau)—Treasury Secretary Henry Fowler presented President Johnson's case for reinstating two business tax credits to a largely critical House Ways and Means Committee today. He drew fire from several members for refusing to abandon the Administration's still-to-be-considered proposal to add a 6% surcharge on income taxes.

Rep. Al Ullman (D-Ore.) argued that by putting the investment sweeteners back on the books, the Administration for all practical purposes would have "killed any chance of imposing the surtax in this year and perhaps in the Congress."

He rapped the Administration for "in effect going in both directions at once."

The committee worked behind closed doors today to clear the bill, designed to put added zip into the nation's economy. The House is expected to act on it on Thursday.

Suspended Last October

The bill would put back on the books the 7% investment tax credit on new machinery and equipment and the fast write-off allowed on new business structures.

Fowler argued today that suspension of the business tax credits fall was never intended as a revenue measure, but to ease pressures on the economy caused by a "unique" situation, the Vietnam war buildup and the rapidly expanding civilian economy.

The surtax is a \$5.5 billion money-raiser intended primarily to pay for increased Viet war costs.

Denies Recession Fear

Although some leading economic indicators have been slipping, Fowler maintained that the Administration wanted Congress to act now because the very special-



Secretary Fowler Presents tax proposals

ized condition of a capital goods boom and a tight money market no longer existed.

He denied that the Administration had any serious fears that the economy was moving into a recession.

Some Republicans rapped the Administration's plans as "tinkering" with the economy and contended that reinstating the credits five months after they were taken away would cause tax complications for businessmen.

Businessman Linked to New Orleans Oswald 'Plot'

(Continued from page 2)

chains, a black hood, gown and cape.

Other men questioned by Garrison's investigators form an unsavory company, including crooks, kooks, psychos and weirdos. Many of them continually change their stories, contradicting themselves when talking to reporters.

Shaw was arrested by the DA March 1 and accused of taking part in the plot. Today's hearing at the Orleans Parish Criminal Court House before a three-judge panel was to decide if there was enough evidence against Shaw to warrant his trial.

Russo told the judges that in the September before the November assassination he was present in Ferrie's apartment in New Orleans when Oswald, Shaw and Ferrie discussed methods of carrying out the murder.

"The discussion centered around the fact that an assassination attempt would have to use diversionary tactics. There was talk of triangulation of crossfire as diversionary action," Russo said. "He (Ferrie) would put up three fingers to demonstrate. One of the people would shoot a diversionary shot, maybe one or two people would do it and the third person would do the direct hit and be the good shot."

"Thereafter, one of these three would be termed the scapegoat,

One of them would have to be sacrificed while the others got away by plane to either Brazil or Cuba."

During the afternoon session, Russo said he saw Oswald at Ferrie's apartment with a rifle. He testified Oswald was sitting on a sofa cleaning the gun, which had a telescopic sight. He described the weapon as an old-fashioned bolt action rifle.

Similar but Duller

Garrison then produced from brown paper wrapping a rifle with a telescopic sight and asked Russo if this was similar to the weapon he had seen Oswald handling.

Russo said it was similar but Oswald's gun was not so highly polished and had a different kind of sight.

He said he did not like Oswald and Oswald did not seem to like him. At one meeting, he testified: Oswald nodded at him and asked, "What about him?"

He added that Ferrie told Oswald that he, Russo, was "okay." During one of the alleged meetings of conspirators, Russo said, there was an argument about where they should fly after the assassination. According to Russo, Oswald jumped up and told Shaw, whom Russo said he knew as Clem Bertrand: "Shut up!" adding that Ferrie was the pilot and knew what was best.

Shaw replied, Russo said, that Ferrie was a "washed-up pilot,"

A Seeming Contradiction

New Orleans, March 14 (Special) — The testimony Perry Russo gave in court here today apparently contradicted what he told a television interviewer Feb. 24, two days after the death of David Ferrie, asserted getaway pilot in the assassination "plot" being unfolded by District Attorney Jim Garrison.

In the interview Russo said that he had never even heard of Lee Harvey Oswald before the assassination. Also, on that occasion, he put all talk of an attempt to kill the President in Ferrie's mouth alone. No conspiracy was mentioned.

to which Ferrie made no answer. At another point, Russo went on, Oswald mentioned problems with his Russian wife, Marina, and Ferrie said he would handle them.

Russo testified that he first saw Shaw at the dedication ceremonies of the National Wharf here, attended by President Kennedy.

He said he noticed Shaw because Shaw was so big and because he seemed so unimpressed by the President.

"He wasn't even looking at the President," Russo said.

Russo told the court that earlier this year the DA's office had asked him to identify Shaw as the man he knew as Bertrand. "We waited for two hours outside Bertrand's home on Dauphine St.," he said. "I saw Mr. Bertrand walk out once to let some people out."

"I told the men from the DA's office that it was Bertrand, but they weren't satisfied."

Eventually, posing as an insurance salesman, he knocked on Bertrand's door. When Shaw answered, he said, he identified Shaw as Bertrand. "I was absolutely sure in my identification," Russo said.

Quizzed After Killing

After Shaw's arrest, the FBI said that he had been questioned following the assassination and cleared of involvement. There was no explanation why Shaw was quizzed, and federal officials said the section of the Warren Report dealing with Shaw had been sealed and would not be made public.

Speaking in a Southern drawl, Russo said he met Ferrie in 1960 and continued to associate with him until 1964. Asked how he met Ferrie, he said: "I had a friend in the Civil Air Patrol and he had made mention—" At this point, the defense began a series of objections to hearsay evidence.

Russo said the friend introduced them and he attended a number of Civil Air Patrol meetings at Kenna, a suburb of New Orleans.

At this time, Ferrie was living in Kenna and Russo said he visited him there. Later, Ferrie moved into the city apartment where he was to die and Russo said he visited Ferrie there on a number of occasions in 1962 and 1963.

Party Narrowed Down

Russo said that in the middle of September, 1963, he went to Ferrie's home and found a party in progress with about eight or 10 people present.

"People began to leave," he said, "and it narrowed down to three people besides myself. I remained because I had no ride."

Garrison asked him who were the other three. "Dave Ferrie, Leon Oswald and Clem Bertrand," Russo said. He explained that Leon Oswald turned out later to be Lee Harvey Oswald.

Then came the dramatic moment which sent a shock wave through the court room. Garrison asked Russo if Clem Bertrand was in the court room. The witness looked at the accused, Clay Shaw, said yes and then pointed at him. This appeared to be the vital link between Oswald and Shaw.

Court officials had to call for silence.