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STATE OF LOUISIANA V. CLAY L. SHAW  
SCIAMBRA, ANDREW J.  
RUSSO, PERRY  
GARRISON, JAMES  
FERRIE, DAVID

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SHAW TRIAL PROCEEDINGS

000013

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT  
PARISH OF ORLEANS  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

STATE OF LOUISIANA	198-059
VERSUS	1426 (30)
CLAY L. SHAW	SECTION "C"

EXCERPT OF  
PROCEEDINGS IN OPEN COURT,  
MORNING, FEBRUARY 12, 1969

Paul Williams,  
Reporter

B E F O R E : THE HONORABLE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY,  
JR., JUDGE, SECTION "C"

Dietrich & Pickett, Inc.

*Stenotypists*

333 ST. CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 1221  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130-522-3111

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1 THE COURT:

2 It is 11:31, call your next witness.

3 MR. ALCOCK:

4 I call Andrew Sciambra.

5 ANDREW J. SCIAMBRA,

6 having been first duly sworn, was examined and  
7 testified as follows:

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. ALCOCK:

10 Q For the record, state your full name and  
11 occupation.

12 A My name is Andrew J. Sciambra, Assistant  
13 District Attorney, Parish of Orleans.

14 Q How long have you been Assistant District  
15 Attorney?

16 A Since March -- since May of 1966.

17 Q And are you an attorney at law?

18 A I am.

19 Q Mr. Sciambra, referring you to the day of  
20 February 27, 1967, did you have occasion  
21 to interview Perry Raymond Russo?

22 A February 27 or February 25?

23 Q February 25, I am sorry.

24 A Yes.

25 Q When did this interview take place?

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1 A The interview took place in Baton Rouge,  
2 Louisiana.

3 Q Were you with anyone at the time the inter-  
4 view was conducted?

5 A No, I was alone.

6 Q And for what reason did you go up to Baton  
7 Rouge on that occasion?

8 A Well, that morning I had received a telephone  
9 call from Jim Garrison, and Jim asked  
10 me did anyone talk to Perry Russo yet,  
11 and I told Mr. Garrison --

12 MR. WEGMANN:

13 Object to what someone told him.

14 BY MR. ALCOCK:

15 Q As a result of a conversation --

16 A As a result of my conversation with Mr.  
17 Garrison, I went up to Baton Rouge to  
18 interview Perry Russo.

19 Q Now, prior to that occasion, Mr. Sciambra,  
20 or subsequent to it, have you ever seen  
21 a letter allegedly addressed to the  
22 District Attorney's office by Mr. Russo?

23 A No, I never have.

24 Q Do you recall approximately what time the  
25 interview began?

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1 A Well, as best I can recall, when I first got  
2 to Baton Rouge, Perry was not home, they  
3 had a baseball game going on, the LSU  
4 team had a practice baseball game, I  
5 believe, going on at the baseball field,  
6 and I was told that Perry was at the --

7 MR. DYMOND:

8 I object to what he was told.

9 THE WITNESS:

10 I went over to the baseball field and  
11 I saw Perry at the baseball field  
12 and he was watching Steve Dorby,  
13 who was playing for LSU at the  
14 time, and I told Perry that I was  
15 from the District Attorney's office,  
16 and I told him that I would like to  
17 interview him in regards to what I  
18 had read and what Garrison had  
19 read in New Orleans and Baton Rouge  
20 papers concerning what Dave Ferrie  
21 had told him. Perry said that,  
22 well, as a result --

23 MR. DYMOND:

24 Objection.

25 MR. WEGMANN:

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Object, Judge, this is rank hearsay.

THE WITNESS:

As a result of my conversation with  
Perry, later on that afternoon,  
around 5:30 or 6:00 o'clock I  
went over to Perry's apartment at  
311 East State Street in Baton  
Rouge, Louisiana, and I began my  
interview with Perry Russo.

BY MR. ALCOCK:

Q Now, who was present in the apartment besides  
yourself and Perry Russo?

A Well, during the course of my interview with  
Perry, many people were present, coming  
in and out, actually if you know Perry  
Russo at all you know that his apartment  
is more or less like a fraternity house  
in regards to many of his friends in his  
presence.

MR. WEGMANN:

Objection, he is stating an opinion as  
to what he thinks Perry --

THE WITNESS:

There were many people in Perry's  
apartment from time to time, the

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people were friends of Perry's.

MR. WEGMANN:

I object unless he knows of his own  
personal knowledge.

THE WITNESS:

I do know of my own personal knowledge  
these were friends of Perry and  
there were people coming in and  
out of the apartment.

BY MR. ALCOCK:

Q Approximately how long did you interview  
Perry?

A I would imagine I interviewed Perry about two  
and a half hours, give or take fifteen  
or twenty minutes.

Q On this occasion, did you take any notes?

A In the beginning of the interview I took  
very few notes. Actually I was more  
interested in names and addresses and  
telephone numbers and it was not until  
about -- I was there, I would say, an  
hour and a half to an hour and forty-  
five minutes when I took a little more  
extensive notes, in all I would say I  
took about two and a half, maybe three

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1 pages of notes.

2 Q On what size pad did you take these notes?

3 A A regular legal-sized pad.

4 Q Did you have a tape recorder with you?

5 A No, I did not.

6 Q Did you tape down anything Perry Russo said?

7 A No, I did not.

8 Q At any time during the course of the inter-

9 view did you leave the room where Perry

10 was?

11 A I don't believe I did.

12 Q Do you recall his leaving the room at any

13 time?

14 A Well, he may have walked from the room that

15 we were in into the kitchen or something,

16 but I don't really remember.

17 Q What, Mr. Sciambra, were you using for your

18 writing purposes, how did you have your

19 legal pad?

20 A Well, I sat down on the chair and I put my

21 brief case on top of my legs and I put

22 the legal pad on top of the brief case,

23 I wrote like that.

24 Q During the course of your interview, Mr.

25 Sciambra, did Perry Russo identify any

Reference copy, JFK Commission



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pictures?

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2 A During the course of our interview, Perry  
3 identified many pictures. I had about  
4 forty photographs and I showed these  
5 photographs to Perry during the course  
6 of our interview and he identified many  
7 of them as being familiar or that he  
8 thought he may have known this person  
9 or that he thought he may have known  
10 that person, and also during the course  
11 of this interview, Perry identified a  
12 picture of Lee Harvey Oswald as Leon,  
13 a person whom he had been introduced  
14 to by Dave Ferrie.

15 MR. WEGMANN:

16 I object, Your Honor, hearsay.

17 THE COURT:

18 All right, --

19 MR. DYMOND:

20 It's hearsay, we object on the grounds  
21 it is hearsay evidence.

22 THE COURT:

23 Anything that Perry Russo told him is  
24 hearsay, yes.

25 MR. ALCOCK:

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Even though Perry has testified --

THE COURT:

Yes.

MR. ALCOCK:

He can say whether or not he identified  
a picture, that is what he was  
saying, I asked him if he identified  
any pictures and he said yes.

MR. DYMOND:

If the Court please, in order to identify  
a picture you must say who that  
picture represents, that is what  
identifying a picture is, and that  
is certainly hearsay evidence.

MR. ALCOCK:

He can say out of a stack of forty  
pictures which pictures he mechan-  
ically picked out and sat aside.

THE COURT:

I think Mr. Sciambra can testify to a  
physical act done by another person  
without stating what the person said.  
It would be hearsay.

MR. WEGMANN:

If we are going to do it this way, if

Reference Copy

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we are going to permit the witness  
to do this, I think we should call  
for the production of the forty  
pictures that were there and let  
him point out the ones that he  
identified.

THE COURT:

Are you trying to tell the State how  
to run the case?

MR. WEGMANN:

No, Your Honor, but --

THE COURT:

That is what it amounts to.

MR. WEGMANN:

If he does not do it that way, it is  
hearsay.

THE WITNESS:

I did not say he identified forty  
pictures --

THE COURT:

Let me make a ruling on this. Make  
your objection again for the record.

MR. WEGMANN:

If he is going to point out the pictures  
that Mr. Russo identified, he

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1 should show us all of the pictures  
2 so we could be aware of what he  
3 chose from and what he didn't  
4 choose from. If we are going to  
5 show him specific items, you are  
6 in effect leading the witness if  
7 you are going to ask him did he  
8 choose this one and that one.

9 MR. ALCOCK:

10 That is not leading a witness, to show  
11 the witness a picture and ask  
12 whether or not on a certain  
13 occasion this man identified a  
14 picture. He could either say yes  
15 or no.

16 THE COURT:

17 The observation was that the man would  
18 have to physically state orally  
19 whether it was or was not, and  
20 the only other way was the effort  
21 you mentioned, that he mechanically  
22 separated them, which is a physical  
23 act and not verbal conversation.  
24 If your proposition is done the  
25 way you say, with these forty

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1 pictures, this man physically  
2 separating the ones that you have  
3 into evidence, then I would permit  
4 that, if it was done that way, and  
5 Mr. Wegmann's objection is that  
6 there were forty pictures, get the  
7 rest of the pictures because it is  
8 the same physical act, pick these  
9 out of the forty.

10 MR. ALCOCK:

11 Let's determine whether or not he still  
12 has them or recalls what the  
13 pictures were.

14 THE COURT:

15 That is a good idea.

16 BY MR. ALCOCK:

17 Q Do you still have the thirty or forty  
18 pictures that you have presented to  
19 Perry Russo on that occasion?

20 A In the course of the investigation we were  
21 constantly changing pictures.

22 MR. WEGMANN:

23 I ask the Court to instruct him to  
24 answer the question.

25 MR. ALCOCK:

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He is not questioning this witness,

he will have his opportunity,

let's have an objection, not just  
start talking.

MR. WEGMANN:

I have the right to make an objection  
to the Court.

MR. ALCOCK:

Then make your objection.

MR. WEGMANN:

The objection at this time is the answer  
is not responsive to the question.

MR. ALCOCK:

That is the Court's decision to make.

MR. WEGMANN:

It is my right to make the objection to  
the Court and call it to the Court's  
attention.

THE COURT:

Say yes or no and then you can explain it.

THE WITNESS:

Yes, and let me explain. I have most  
of the pictures in the course of --

THE COURT:

The answer should have been no, you do

not have the forty.

THE WITNESS:

I do not have the complete forty, Your  
Honor.

THE COURT:

The answer is no, I do not have it, and  
you can explain.

THE WITNESS:

I don't have the exact forty pictures;  
as a matter of fact, I couldn't  
tell you the exact forty pictures  
I have but I do believe I have most  
of the pictures at that time that I  
was carrying around.

MR. ALCOCK:

It is the State's position that it is  
not necessary to have these forty  
pictures brought into Court and to  
have this witness say which one was  
separated from the stack of pictures.  
Now, yesterday Mr. Dymond cross-  
examined Perry Russo on Mr.  
Sciambra's memorandum, and this  
is exactly what we are getting  
into here now.

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1 THE COURT:

2 I am aware of that.

3 MR. DYMOND:

4 If the Court please, if a particular  
5 photograph was physically separated  
6 from other photographs, the Jury is  
7 certainly entitled to know what  
8 other photographs they were separ-  
9 ated from. I don't say this is a  
10 fact, but conceivably all forty  
11 could be the same, we don't know.

12 THE COURT:

13 I rule that Mr. Sciambra came back to  
14 the City with certain exhibits as  
15 a result of talking to Perry Russo,  
16 and I will permit you to introduce  
17 them into evidence.

18 MR. ALCOCK:

19 They have already been introduced, Your  
20 Honor.

21 MR. DYMOND:

22 To which ruling Counsel objects, reserves  
23 a bill, making the question, the  
24 answer, whatever photographs were  
25 exhibited and allegedly identified,



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the ruling of the Court, the  
entire record, parts of the bill.

BY MR. ALCOCK:

Q I show you two pictures which have been  
previously marked for purposes of  
identification as "S-1" and "S-3,"  
and I ask you whether or not these  
pictures were selected during the  
course of that interview.

A These pictures were selected.

Q Do you know who is depicted in "S-1" and  
"S-3"?

A Lee Harvey Oswald is depicted in "S-1,"  
and David W. Ferrie is depicted in  
"S-3."

Q Now, Mr. Sciambra, at the conclusion of  
this interview, where did you go?

A At the conclusion of my interview with  
Perry Russo in Baton Rouge, I went  
directly to Jim Garrison's house.

Q And what did you tell him without saying  
what he told you?

A I told Jim Garrison that Perry Russo told  
me during our interview in Baton Rouge  
of a meeting --

MR. WEGMANN:

This is hearsay, Your Honor.

MR. DYMOND:

He is relating hearsay.

THE COURT:

I sustain the objection.

BY MR. ALCOCK:

Q Did you inform Mr. Garrison of the contents  
of the interview?

A Yes, I did.

Q As a result of that or in conjunction with  
your duties, did you have an occasion  
shortly thereafter to see Perry Russo  
again?

A Yes, I did, the next time I saw Perry Russo  
was Monday morning, February 27.

Q And where did you see him?

A In the District Attorney's office.

Q And who was present with you at that time?

A At the time I don't know exactly who was  
present, but he came up to my office  
as a result of my phone call.

Q Did you go anywhere with him on that occasion?

A Well, at first I believe we went down to the  
Detective Bureau in order to draw a

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composite sketch of Lee Harvey Oswald,  
and then from there we went back up to  
the District Attorney's office, contacted  
Detective Jano in an effort to get the  
beard of Lee Harvey Oswald properly  
drawn on the photograph.

Q And other than those activities, did you have  
any other contact with Perry Russo on  
that day?

A After that Al Oser and myself took Perry  
Russo to Dr. Nicholas Chetta's office  
on Bienville Street, I believe it was,  
and from there we took Perry Russo over  
to the Mercy Hospital and he was put  
under sodium-pentothal.

Q Were you present during the interview on the  
sodium-pentothal?

A Yes, I was.

Q Was there a stenographer taking down what  
was said during the interview?

A No, Al Oser was taking down notes.

Q Subsequent to this interview, did you or Mr.  
Oser ever put Mr. Oser's notes to a  
memorandum or a writing?

A The first thing that we did Tuesday morning,

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the first thing I did Tuesday morning was contact Lorraine Schuler, Jim Garrison's personal secretary, and we went in Mr. Garrison's office and Al Oser and myself dictated the memorandum concerning the sodium-pentothal interview with Perry Russo.

Q Now, going back to your original interview with Perry Russo, Mr. Sciambra, did you have occasion at any time to commit that interview to writing, in memorandum form?

A Monday morning, the 27th, the first thing I did when I got in the DA's around 9:00 o'clock, I picked up the telephone and I called Perry Russo's place of employment in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which was an insurance company, and Perry Russo was not in at the time, so I left a message with his boss to have Perry call me when he did come in, and subsequent to that I contacted a secretary in the DA's office and got her into my office and began dictating a memorandum of my interview with Perry Russo on the 25th. I had dictated about one paragraph

Reference copy, JFK Collection

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of that memorandum when the telephone rang, it was Perry Russo.

Q You can't say what he said.

A No, I told Perry Russo to come on down here, that Jim Garrison wanted to talk to him, and as a result of what he told me, I was waiting for Perry to get in New Orleans about an hour and a half after I talked to him, and I did not finish the memorandum at that time. I finished only dictating about one paragraph of the memorandum, which was begun on the morning of February 27.

Q Now, I am going to show you, Mr. Sciambra, that which has been introduced into evidence and marked "S and D-20," which purports to be a memorandum prepared by yourself, and I ask if you can identify it.

A Yes, I can identify this memorandum. This is a memorandum that I started to dictate on the morning of February 27 before I had received the phone call from Perry Russo and which was completed about seven to ten days later.

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Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 226)

1 Q Mr. Sciambra, which memorandum was completed  
2 first, the memorandum that you have  
3 just identified or the memorandum that  
4 you and Mr. Oser dictated the morning  
5 after the sodium-pentothal administration?

6 A The first memorandum that was dictated and  
7 completed first was the memorandum that  
8 Mr. Oser and I dictated Tuesday morning  
9 to Miss Lorraine Schuler, the memorandum  
10 that Mr. Dymond has labeled as the  
11 Sciambra Memorandum was not finished  
12 until ten days, seven to ten days after  
13 the sodium-pentothal memorandum.

14 Q Mr. Sciambra, can you recall how many dic-  
15 tation sessions you had in total or  
16 what was required in total for you to  
17 complete the memorandum, "S and D 20"?

18 A You are referring to what Mr. --

19 Q The Sciambra Memorandum.

20 A I would say it took anywhere from four to  
21 five sessions to complete that memorandum.  
22 You see, the way I dictated that memoran-  
23 dum, there were so many things going on  
24 at the time that whenever I would get  
25 a chance to dictate on the memorandum

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1 and whenever the secretary had a  
2 chance to receive the dictation, I  
3 would call her to my office and would  
4 dictate bits and pieces of the memorandum.

5 Q Now, Mr. Sciambra, does that memorandum  
6 reflect all that Perry Russo told you  
7 on the 25th of February?

8 A It does not. That memorandum was hastily  
9 done, it was incomplete, it was in-  
10 accurate, there were omissions in it,  
11 and it does not reflect what Perry Russo  
12 told me during my first interview in  
13 Baton Rouge on February 25.

14 Q And does the memorandum that you prepared  
15 along with Mr. Oser on the 27th  
16 accurately reflect the interview at  
17 Mercy Hospital?

18 A The sodium-pentothal memorandum, which was  
19 the first memorandum that I dictated,  
20 reflects the most important thing that  
21 Perry Russo told me during our interview  
22 on February 25th in Baton Rouge, namely  
23 of a meeting.

24 MR. DYMOND:

25 I object to what Perry Russo told him.

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MR. WEGMANN:

He is violating the basic rule of  
testimony.

THE WITNESS:

That is your opinion.

THE COURT:

Don't answer the attorney back. You are  
a witness at this stage, please  
check yourself and make sure you  
don't tell us what he told you.

MR. ALCOCK:

I will make him a copy. It is almost  
lunch, Your Honor, if they want  
to peruse it during lunch.

THE COURT:

Here is what we will do, Gentlemen, if  
you wish. It is five minutes to  
twelve. You can get a copy Xeroxed  
and you can have it during recess.

Gentlemen, do not discuss the case with  
one another or any other persons.

We will now be in recess for lunch.

Let everybody have a seat until the Jury  
leaves.

We will be in recess until 1:30.