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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

—Here Today—

# Grand Jury Hearing Novel's Testimony

By BILL BANKSTON

Gordon Novel today was giving his much-awaited testimony to the East Baton Rouge Parish Grand Jury.

He walked into Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher's office at 10:15 a.m. and shortly afterward went to the second floor grand jury room.

The grand jury subpoena was issued by four sheriff's deputies extricated by Novel from Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher for the appearance here.

Novel said, of his return to Louisiana. "It's probably the greatest pleasure of my life." Novel said, of his return to Louisiana.

About the only other comment he had was that he is ready to immediately take a lie detector test concerning his testimony.

It appeared that Novel's battery of attorneys waited outside the grand jury room for consultation in case he had any questions concerning his testimony. Reportedly there were also two attorneys in a New Orleans office armed with a bank of law books, in case any legal points concerning the testimony needed to be argued.

It is believed Novel will have to leave early tomorrow afternoon for return to Ohio, since his immunity is good for only 48 hours.

His attorneys said a press conference will be held when he is through testifying before the grand jury and that he would answer all questions which did not touch on his testimony.

Guaranteed immunity while in Louisiana to testify in the probe of underworld influence in state government, Novel was flown into Baton Rouge late yesterday afternoon in the sheriff's department plane.

The usually loquacious Novel had little to say. His Ohio attorney, Jerry Weiner, explained that since Novel was under subpoena he could make no statement.

Novel has promised "sensational" disclosures before the grand jury.

Sheriff's deputies stood guard around the district attorney's office last night during the meeting and were also stationed in the seventh floor of the Lakeshore where the Novel party is staying.

Earlier, Novel had said he was "scared to death," but that he would make the appearance here and "win" if "they play by the rules."

Gov. John McKeithen asked Pitcher to launch the criminal probe here after Life magazine reported crime and gambling flourished in Louisiana. The probe was ordered after the governor returned from a meeting with Life officials in New York.

Pitcher has said the governor wanted Novel to appear "in the worst way."

The grand jury has so far indicted one person, Dalton Smith, in its investigation of organized crime. Smith was accused of attempting to bribe Young, with a \$25,000 offer in connection with maneuvers to spring Teamster president Jimmy Hoffa from a federal prison.

Meanwhile, Louisiana authorities have asked Texas Gov. John Connally to extradite Smith to Louisiana.

Smith surrendered to the sheriff in Denton, Tex., Oct. 3 and is free on a \$1,500 fugitive bond. Smith's lawyers asked the Texas secretary of state's office for an extradition hearing and date is expected to be set Thursday.

Besides Weiner, Plotkin and Brown, two other attorneys from Plotkin's firm were with Novel this morning. They were Ronald Tanet and Sandy Kransoff.

The deputies guarding Novel were Sgt. Pat Bonanno, Tom Baker, Mike Wilson and Garry Alonzo. Tanet said that he had grown up in the same neighborhood with Novel in Metairie.

Edward Grady Partin, business manager for Teamster Local No. 5, today dispatched the following telegram to the State Times:

"It is our understanding from reliable sources that we are not at liberty to disclose but Mr. Gordon Novel may have information on the cause of the labor shutdown in the Baton Rouge area."

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

*Handwritten notes:* wyl, 1/26/57

(Indicate page, name of newspaper and state.)

PAGE 1 *6/1/57*

STATE TIMES

BATON ROUGE, LA.

*Handwritten:* REC 35 - 6-1-57

NOT RECORDED  
199 NOV 9 1957

Date: 10-19-67

Edition: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Editor: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: CRIME CONDITIONS

STATE OF LOUISIANA

Character: AP

Classification: 92

Submitting Office: N. O., LA.

Being Investigated

62-109060

*Handwritten:* 7-11-57

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Baton Rouge area and the causes of the labor troubles that led to the creation of the Labor Management Commission of Inquiry.

"Certainly the community needs to know this information. I would think for the benefit of all concerned the Labor Management Commission and East Baton Rouge Parish Grand Jury should have this information and should exert all efforts to secure it especially since it may be of a criminal nature and to make this information public regardless of who is affected.

"Failure to pursue this inquiry and to come up with the true reasons for a shutdown is continuing proof that the main endeavor has been to make me and Local 5 scape goats.

"Sincerely,  
"E. G. Partin, Business Manager, Teamster Local 5."



**NOVEL'S OHIO ATTORNEY** — Jerry Weiner, Gordon Novel's attorney from Columbus, Ohio, gestures to newsmen last night at a news conference after he and Novel arrived in Baton Rouge. The two met with Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher for about five hours last night in preparation for Novel's grand jury appearance today. Weiner engineered the assurances of immunity for Novel while the former New Orleans night club operator is in Louisiana.

—Staff photo by Leatus Still