

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Novel Freed on \$10,000 Fugitive Bond

Fugitive witness Gordon Novel was released on \$10,000 bond at Columbus, Ohio, today and prepared to fight his return to New Orleans, where Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison wants to question him about the Kennedy assassination.

A professional bondsman posted bail for the 29-year-old Novel, who was nabbed Saturday in a Columbus suburb on charges he conspired with two other figures in the inquiry to burglarize a Houma munitions dump.

MEANWHILE, a Cuban ex-patriate arrested on the same charge at Dallas, told Texas police: "Garrison hasn't got anything."

The former New Orleans anti-Castro leader, Sergio Vincente Arcacha Smith, 44, was named with one-time right club owner Novel and the late David W. Ferrie in warrants charging they conspired the 1961 theft of munitions from a Schlumberger Wells Service depot at Houma.

Arcacha is free on \$1,500 bail.

Novel, who has eluded arrest on an earlier material witness warrant in the Kennedy death plot inquiry, was picked up by suburban Gannana, Ohio, police Saturday.

He said he will fight extradition "all the way to the Supreme Court."

ARCACHA WAS taken into custody by Dallas police at his home yesterday, booked, fingerprinted and released on bail.

New Orleans Criminal Dist. Court Judge Thomas Brahney set bond for both men at \$5,000. A Dallas justice of the peace reduced Arcacha's bail to \$1,500, but Novel's bond was boosted to \$10,000 by Ohio authorities.

Novel, Arcacha and Ferrie—who died here recently of what the Orleans Parish coroner called natural causes—all figure in the DA's presidential assassination plot investigation.

Garrison has charged Ferrie, Lee Harvey Oswald and retired New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw conspired

here to kill Kennedy in 1963. Shaw will be arraigned on the charge before Criminal Dist. Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. at 10:30 a. m. tomorrow.

ARCACHA, who has lived at Dallas since 1963 and works for the export division of an air-conditioning firm, claims he knows nothing about the plot.

A father of five, Arcacha left Cuba shortly after Fidel Castro came to power. He first settled in Miami, later at New Orleans, then Miami again, Houston and Dallas.

He was chief of anti-Castro Cuban revolutionary activities in New Orleans before the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, when Garrison says the Houma munitions depot raid was planned.

BEFORE leaving New Orleans, Novel told reporters Garrison wanted to talk with him about "activities in 1961 which are connected with Mr. Sergio Arcacha Smith."

As he sought to conduct his own appeal before a Columbus court yesterday, Novel was silenced twice—first by the judge, later by a tardy defense lawyer.

At one point, Novel asserted: "I used to do work for Garrison. In fact, I did some of the investigating in this so-called plot. I've got a lot of charges of my own to make about him."

His attorney, Jerry Weiner, was entering the courtroom as Novel declared he did not intend to return voluntarily to New Orleans "because of this Cuban . . ."

WEINER silenced Novel, explaining later: "I never want a client to make a statement that I don't know in advance what he is going to say."

At New Orleans, all principals in the case were put on notice by Judge Haggerty to keep mum about evidence or the guilt or innocence of accused conspirator Clay Shaw.

Haggerty warned that his court has the power to "punish for contempt" anyone who violates the order. He specifically included "attorneys, police, investigators, and any public employe officially connected with the processes of this court."

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