

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

NEW CHARGES FILED

Probe Spotlights Munitions Theft

The mysterious burglary of an oil well service company's munitions dump at Houma in 1961 held the spotlight today in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy murder plot investigation.

At New Orleans yesterday, a grand jury indicted the onetime roommate of key probe figure David W. Ferrie for perjury in connection with an investigation of the munitions theft.

And at Houma, Dist. Atty. Wilmore Broussard has ordered the arrests of fugitive witness Gordon Novel and erstwhile anti-Castro leader Sergio Vincente Arcacha Smith after charging them with the burglary.

THE 29-YEAR-OLD Novel and Arcacha, 44, were charged earlier in New Orleans with conspiracy to steal explosives from the Schlumberger Wells Service depot.

Orleans Parish grand jurors revealed the latest indictment against Layton Patrick Martens, 3622 Constance.

Martens was the late Ferrie's roommate in 1963 when President Kennedy was shot on a Dallas street. Martens was accused of lying under oath and jurors cited three questions and answers to support the charge.

When Martens was called before the investigating jury March 29, his indictment said, the colloquy went this way:

Q—How often—How well did you know Gordon Novel?

A—I don't recall ever hearing of or meeting Gordon Novel.

Q—Are you telling me that even when the boxes were being removed from the



LAYTON PATRICK MARTENS

bunker you did not know the purpose of the trip?

A—No, as best I can remember, I was there. Yes, I do remember being there. The purpose of the trip was not revealed to me.

Q—You do not remember Sergio Arcacha Smith being on the trip?

A—No, I don't.

Arcacha Smith was arrested at Dallas Monday and freed on \$1,500 bail under a New Orleans warrant charging him with conspiracy to burglarize the explosives dump. Gordon Novel, wanted here as a material witness in Garrison's assassination inquiry, was taken into custody on the same charge

at Columbus, Ohio, suburb Saturday. He is free on \$10,000 bond.

The district attorney at Houma said he filed simple burglary charges against both Arcacha and Novel late yesterday and has ordered their arrests. DA Broussard said he will initiate extradition proceedings against both men if they refuse to return voluntarily.

BROUSSARD declined to reveal what time of day the bunker was burglarized or what kind of explosives were taken. He would not say whether he expects to charge others in the theft.

Martens, meanwhile, was expected to post \$2,500 bond at New Orleans today.

He was indicted within three hours after Clay L. Shaw, the only person charged in direct connection with the Kennedy death inquiry, faced his accusers at a formal arraignment in Criminal District Court and pleaded not guilty.

Shaw, a 54-year-old retired New Orleans businessman, was indicted here March 22, charged with plotting Kennedy's murder together with Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald.

GARRISON CONTENDS the plotting was done at Ferrie's

apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy., where the late pilot roomed with Martens. Ferrie was found dead there within days after his name was linked publicly to the inquiry. A coroner's report said he died of natural causes.

Reached at Lafayette, Martens said he expected the perjury indictment and added:

"It's just an attempt by Garrison to discredit any and all witnesses who did not bolster the Garrison investigation."

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STATES-ITEM
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ENCLOSURE

~~Witness~~ said he took a lie detector test in Garrison's office last December, "and it was positive in my favor."

As the grand jury continued its inquiry yesterday, another witness tied closely with Novel appeared to testify.

HE WAS IDENTIFIED as Rancier Blaise Ehlinger, 28, of Metairie, and his attorney said he had known Novel for a dozen years, both socially and in business.

Police records show Ehlinger and Novel were arrested here in 1959 and charged with the theft of a car from Baton Rouge. The stolen auto, a Corvette, was found in a garage the two men rented at 2917 College sts., according to Baton Rouge police records.

Charges were dropped against the pair when a third youth admitted the theft.