

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Omaha Halts Try to Return Plot Witness

Authorities at Omaha, Neb., today abandoned attempts to enforce a New Orleans court order to return Sandra McMaignes here for questioning before the Grand Jury Tuesday.

Arthur O'Leary, a deputy Douglas County attorney at Omaha, said his office could not find the witness wanted in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation.

HE SAID NO active search was being made for the 22-year-old former New Orleans girl who says she was once in love with star Garrison witness Perry R. Russo of Baton Rouge.

"The only thing we could do is subpoena her," O'Leary told reporters today, adding:

"A subpoena is no good across state lines, and I assume now she is no longer in Nebraska."

Mrs. McMaignes was reported staying with friends in Iowa, a state which does not honor the interstate criminal witness compact under which Judge Bernard J. Bagert ordered her return.

**SHE IS SCHEDULED** to appear at a hearing April 25 at Omaha on an earlier fugitive witness warrant sworn out by Garrison's office. Mrs. McMaignes is free on \$1,000 bond which permits her to travel outside the jurisdiction of Nebraska courts.

A spokesman for her attorney's office at Omaha said today she will not return to the Nebraska city until the April 25 hearing date.

Judge Bagert issued a certificate of attendance last week, seeking her appearance for questioning here Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

In developments here, a 24-year-old music student who once roomed with key assassination probe figure David W. Ferrie entered a plea or not guilty today as he was arraigned on charges that he lied about the mysterious burglary of a Houma munitions dump.

Layton Patrick Martens, a handsome, well-groomed cello major at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, faced Judge Oliver P. Schulingkamp, accompanied by his attorney, Milton Brenner.

"We will waive the reading of the indictment and plead not guilty," Brenner told the judge.

SCHULINGKAMP granted Brenner's request for 30 days in which to file special pleadings and continued Martens' bond at \$2,500.

Martens, dressed in blue blazer and slacks, hurried from the Criminal Court Building after the brief arraignment. He said he was returning to Lafayette to teach a class there this afternoon.

Immediately after he was indicted April 5, he denied grand jury charges that he lied under oath by asserting: "The allegation in the indictment that I testified untruthfully is, in itself, untrue."

Martens was indicted in connection with the same 1961 munitions theft with which two other figures in the Kennedy murder plot inquiry have been charged.

A 29-year-old former New Orleans tavern owner, Gordon Novel, has been arrested in Ohio, and 44-year-old onetime anti-Castro leader Sergio Arcacha Smith has been charged in Dallas. Both are free on bond.

DIST. ATTY. Jim Garrison contends Novel, Arcacha and the late Ferrie conspired to steal explosives from the Schlumberger Well Service Co. dump in August, 1961. Both have been charged with simple burglary by Terrebonne Parish authorities.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1  
STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

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Martens, who roomed with Ferrie when President Kennedy was killed at Dallas in 1963, told the grand jury he did not recall "ever hearing of or meeting" Novel.

Asked by a questioning assistant district attorney, "Do you remember Sergio Arcacha Smith being on the trip?" Martens replied: "No, I don't."

**FERRIE**, A pilot who was arrested and questioned by Garrison immediately after Kennedy's death, died five days after the DA's current investigation became public. The Orleans coroner called it natural causes. Garrison said it was suicide.

Only one man, retired New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw, 64, has been charged directly in Kennedy's death. Shaw was indicted for conspiring with Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald to kill the chief executive. The longtime International Trade Mart director, who has stoutly denied the accusation, is free on \$10,000 bond.

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