

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

NO RESTRICTION IN NOTE--CLAIM

Can't Reach Rhodes About Novel-Governor

By C. M. HARGRODER

(The Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)
BATON ROUGE, La.—Louisiana's governor denied Friday that Ohio's governor wrote him restricting return of Gordon Novel and complained "now I can't get him on the telephone."

Gov. John J. McKeithen said the only letter he had from Gov. James Rhodes requested to know why Novel was wanted in Louisiana, information which McKeithen said he thought was contained in the papers for extradition.

Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison asked Novel be returned to face questioning about an alleged conspiracy to burglarize a Houma munitions dump. Novel has been mentioned by Garrison in his Kennedy assassination probe.

LETTER QUOTED

A letter quoted in Friday editions of The Times-Picayune from an assistant to Gov. Rhodes asked McKeithen to disclaim reports Novel's extradition is sought in connection with the Kennedy probe.

McKeithen told a press conference that he had discussed the Novel case with Rhodes before the Ohio governor returned the legal papers for clarification, but now "I can't get him on the telephone." He said Rhodes was said to be stumping the state on constitutional amendment. McKeithen said Rhodes' assistant was available.

McKeithen quoted an unnamed assistant to Rhodes as telling him "when the papers are in order," Ohio "will certainly" return Novel to Louisiana. Thus far, Garrison is believed to still have the extradition papers which were returned and no new ones forwarded to Ohio. McKeithen said "We've done everything they've asked us to." He said "they" also included Garrison.

In his press conference, the governor also:

—Said a downtown site for the dome stadium at New Orleans is "very much in contention," and he expects Gulf South Research Institute to recommend this soon. He denied that delay in selecting the site would hinder design and preparation of specifications for the facility by architects selected Thursday.

NEED 'GOOD PERSON'

—Said he felt he needed some good person to take charge of the Tourist Commission, but he might put the commission back under Commerce and Industry from which he separated it in 1964. Alleged irregularities have forced an investigation by the Division of Administration which has included a personal probe by Edward W. Stagg, executive secretary to the governor, and legislative auditor J. B. Lancaster. McKeithen said he had offered the job of director to Mrs. Wilma Lockhart who plans to replace on the commission, but "I think she is disinclined to do it."

—Said he hoped to limit non-fiscal legislation in the next 30 days to emergency crime legislation and possibly area authorization for urban redevelopment, although he understood some members of the Orleans delegation oppose extension of such authorization to New Orleans.

—Announced he plans to address the Legislature on Monday, but that the time depends on the invitation from the Legislature.

—Commented further on his Thursday suggestion that a correctional facility for first offenders be located in the New Orleans area, confirming that present bond money is not sufficient, and suggesting the panel system be divided into three parts: one for those whom authorities are confident they can rehabilitate, one for those who prison authorities are "confident" they can rehabilitate and for those they feel "pretty sure" they can help, and one for those they "hope" they can help. But even if money were available now, he said, he was "not sure New Orleans would have it or take it."

—Reiterated he hoped Lt. Gov. C. C. "Taddy" Aycock would seek re-election rather than run for governor because he would be the "odds on favorite" for re-election. In such a case, he said, he would endorse no one else for the post. But if Aycock vacated the race for second spot, he said he would be compelled to indicate a preference for some candidate for the office. As for a quote attributed to Highway Board member Jimmy Howard that McKeithen had urged him to run for lieutenant governor, McKeithen replied that if Howard were consulted he would probably say he had been misquoted.

—Confirmed that he has already approved a salary adjustment for state-employed psychiatrists as contained in the pay plan submitted by Civil Service for all employees, but said he had not approved any others. Asked specifically whether he might have adjusted the salary for warden of the state penitentiary, he said he had not done so as yet.

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

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Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE