

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Novel Lawyer May Halt Suit Against DA

Gordon Novel's attorney may withdraw a \$60 million damage suit filed against Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and the members of Truth and Consequences.

The withdrawal became a possibility yesterday after it appeared that his own suit might be the instrument by which the 29-year-old fugitive witness is returned to Louisiana.

Novel, a onetime French Quarter bar owner, is fighting attempts to bring him here for testimony in Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation.

HE FILED SUIT against Garrison and the private organization which is backing the DA's inquiry, charging that his rights have been violated and his name damaged.

Garrison's lawyer, Malcolm W. Monroe, immediately moved to bring Novel here for the purpose of taking a deposition.

Novel's attorney, Steven R. Plotkin, sought to block the order for a deposition in New Orleans, claiming his client might be arrested if he is returned here.

Plotkin told U.S. Dist. Judge James A. Comiskey during a hearing yesterday that Novel is wanted on a burglary conspiracy charge, a burglary count and two theft charges.

He said that if Novel must return for a deposition, he would like to have a federal court order enjoining Garrison from arresting him.

BUT GARRISON'S lawyer said Louisiana law already provides immunity in the cases of witnesses who return to give testimony.

"That is our view as attorneys," Monroe said of himself and the DA.

Judge Comiskey wound up the hearing by denying Plotkin's motion to quash the defense request for a deposition before U.S. Commissioner Fritz H. Windhorst at 10 a. m. tomorrow.

The decision opened the way for Novel's appearance unless the suit is withdrawn.

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

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STATES-ITEM

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