

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Novel Calls Probe Fraud Take Lie Test, DA Challenged

Gordon Novel, a material witness in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's assassination probe, today called the investigation an "enormous fraud" and challenged the DA to take a lie detector test.

By mid-afternoon, Garrison's office had responded by telling federal authorities it will request a U.S. warrant charging Novel with unlawful flight to avoid testimony.

"I think it's odd that he can be found by newspaper and television media and not by the people who are trying to arrest him," Asst. DA James Alcock declared.

ALCOCK SAID he sent a letter to federal district attorney Louis LaCour, advising him Garrison's office will seek the unlawful flight charge, which will bring federal officers into the search.

The 29-year-old Novel underwent a lie test over the weekend at McLean, Va. The test was administered by Lloyd B. Furr, a private investigator.

Novel called a States-Item reporter and challenged Garrison to take the same type of lie detector test that he himself underwent.

SUCH A TEST, said Novel, would prove that Garrison's investigation is "one big fraud."

"It's the most enormous fraud ever perpetrated in the annals of the legal history of the state of Louisiana," said Novel.

Bond has been set at \$50,000 for Novel, an ex-French Quarter bar owner, and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

Novel's attorney, Steve Plot-

kin, said today he will ask that the bond be reduced.

PLOTKIN SAID the bond would cost his client \$5,000 and "he hasn't got that kind of money."

Plotkin appeared today before Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. to ask that the material witness charge against Novel be transferred to Haggerty's court.

It was allotted last week to Judge Rudolph Becker Jr. Plotkin argued that Haggerty should hear the case because he is handling the main phase of the assassination probe, the trial on criminal conspiracy charges of Clay L. Shaw.

Haggerty agreed, and Judge Becker approved.

JUDGE HAGGERTY, meanwhile, postponed a hearing on Plotkin's motion to drop the material witness warrant against Novel until 1 p.m. Wednesday to give the DA's office an opportunity to study the appeal.

In filing his motion today, Plotkin requested an immediate hearing because he said Novel's "freedom and safety are in danger."

Asst. DA William Alford wanted the hearing delayed until next Wednesday, but Judge Haggerty said a hearing Wednesday would give the DA's men plenty of time to review the motion.

AS HE LEFT the courtroom, Plotkin refused to say what further advice he might give his client.

"Since Mr. Novel has not been arrested at this time," the attorney added, "I'm hoping he can continue to elude arrest until the hearing Wednesday."

Shaw, former director of the International Trade Mart, has been indicted for conspiracy in connection with the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

SHAW WAS DUE back in New Orleans today after spending the Easter weekend on the Mississippi Gulf coast. He left the city Friday for a rest.

Novel declined to tell the States-Item where he is staying, but said he is in "international jurisdiction."

"If Garrison wants me, he will have to go through the World Court." The reference here was apparently to a court set up by the United Nations.

"YOU CAN TELL everyone in New Orleans I'm definitely coming back, but not until Mr. Garrison's investigation has blown up sky high."

"I want my creditors to know, as well as the Truth and Consequences Committee (a private group set up to finance the Garrison investigation), that I will be back and it will be soon."

Novel said he planned to sue members of the committee and the district attorney as well.

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Being Investigated

BY THE TIME members of the committee have answered his law suits, said Novel, "I'll have half of the fortunes of the city in my back pocket."

Asked if he had an attorney present when he took the lie test in Virginia, Novel replied, "The word is attorneys—plural."

Novel also described the questions asked in the lie test.

The witness said he replied "yes" to a number of questions including:

—Did he meet with Jim Garrison on the day before Ferrie died?

—Did he go with Garrison to the Roosevelt Hotel?

—Was the meeting at the request of Willard Robertson (a member of Truth or Consequences)?

—Did Robertson promise that he (Novel) would not get involved if he cooperated?

—Was this a highly secret meeting?

—Did he confer with Garrison about involvement of David Ferrie in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy?

—Did Garrison tell him that Ferrie took a lie test and

according to the test, was not involved.

—Did Garrison tell him Layton Martens (subpenaed to appear before the Grand Jury) took a lie test which showed he was not involved in the conspiracy?

—Did he (Novel) consider the investigation to be a fraud?

Novel said he answered "no" to questions as to whether Jefferson Parish attorney Dean Andrews Jr. was involved and whether he had knowledge of a "genuine" conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

Novel also elaborated on what he said was a "bizarre plan" to extract a confession from Ferrie.

Ferrie, according to the district attorney, plotted with Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald to kill the President. The plot was allegedly hatched in Ferrie's apartment.

The bizarre plan, according to a question in the lie test, consisted of shooting Ferrie with a drug, taking him to a "secret place, forcing the administration of sodium pentothal until he confessed," said Novel.

Novel said he also answered in the affirmative to a question as to whether the district attorney's chief investigator, William Gurvich, threatened or intimidated him.

NOVEL SAID he answered in the negative to questions as to whether he knew that Shaw was involved in any conspiracy and as to whether he ever met Oswald.

Oswald has been named by the Warren Commission, set up to investigate the President's assassination, as having acted alone.

Novel said the lie test was signed by a Ruth Charters, a notary public.

"I'M COMING BACK, but I'm not coming back now to be browbeaten by Garrison or any of his people," said Novel. "Nor am I coming back to lie for Garrison."

Novel said he had his own "30 questions" for Garrison to answer.

"Garrison is power mad," said Novel. "His mad ambitions have run away with him."