

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Garrison Orders Arrest of Novel In Orleans Probe

Says Former Bar Owner Fled State

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's office today ordered the arrest of Gordon Novel, former owner of a French Quarter bar, as a material witness in the investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Novel, 29, was subpoenaed to appear before the Orleans Parish grand jury Wednesday in connection with Garrison's probe. He did not appear and could not be found here.

Novel later turned up in Columbus, Ohio. He left there today saying he was going to Chicago.

The arrest order for Novel followed the grand jury's indictment Wednesday of Clay L. Shaw, retired business executive, on a charge of "wilfully and unlawfully conspiring" to murder Kennedy.

In an affidavit, the district attorney's office alleged that Novel fled New Orleans while under subpoena. It said he severed his business ties and stated publicly that he had no intention of returning.

In Columbus, Novel said he did not want to return to New Orleans without a guarantee of immunity from "harassment." He was quoted as describing the Garrison investigation as "a fraud" and as saying he first helped the district attorney but that "Garrison doublecrossed me."

Appeared Before Grand Jury
Novel appeared before the grand jury March 16. Earlier he told newsmen he thought Garrison wanted to question him about activities "during 1962 which are related to Mr. Sergio Arcacha Smith."

Arcacha, now living in Dallas, said he never heard of Novel. Arcacha headed an anti-Castro group here in 1961.

In its affidavit, filed with Criminal District Court, the district attorney's office said Novel should be placed under sizeable bond or the grand jury will "be deprived of a most important and material witness."

The arrest order was signed by Criminal Dist. Judge Mat S. Braniff.

Novel owned the Jamaican Inn Bar, a lounge on North Rampart St. on the fringe of the French Quarter. He sold the property Sunday.

In another development today, Criminal Dist. Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr., was named to preside at the murder conspiracy trial of Shaw, 54, who will spend the Easter weekend on the Mississippi Gulf Coast with Garrison's approval.

Garrison has said he will prove that the Kennedy assassination resulted from a New Orleans-based conspiracy. He commenced his investigation last October.

Shaw, who retired in October 1965 as managing director of the International Trade Mart here, has been free on \$10,000 bond since his arrest March 1.

The district attorney had said earlier he would bypass the grand jury and file a bill of information before bringing Shaw to trial.

Garrison risked a "no true bill" by taking the case before the grand jury. He had already won a ruling from a three-judge state court panel that sufficient evidence was presented at a preliminary hearing to warrant holding Shaw for trial.

However, he still could have filed a bill of information in the case if the grand jury refused to indict Shaw.

By filing a bill of information, the district attorney would have had to divulge specific details of the case. In Louisiana, which patterns its laws on the Napoleonic code of France, a prosecutor has a choice of bringing a man to trial either by a grand jury indictment or a bill of information.

Shaw was charged by the grand jury's true bill with "wilfully and unlawfully conspiring with David W. Ferrie, Lee Harvey Oswald and unnamed others to murder John F. Kennedy"

Perry Raymond Russo, 25, star witness for Garrison in last week's emotional court hearing, made a surprise appearance before the grand jury before the announcement of the indictment.

Russo told the three-judge court last week he heard Shaw, Ferrie and Oswald plotting in mid-September 1963 to kill Kennedy. Shaw is the only one of the conspirators named in the indictment still alive.

Ferrie Found Dead
Ferrie, 47, was found dead in bed here Feb. 22. Ferrie was under investigation at that time by Garrison.

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

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State Times
Baton Rouge, La.

Date: 3-23-67

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F.
KENNEDY 11-22-63

Character:

or

Classification: 89-

Submitting Office: N.O. 11

Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

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The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald was the sole assassin of Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. No evidence could be found, the commission said of a conspiracy but it said that it could not categorically establish that there was no conspiracy.

Oswald was shot in the basement of the Dallas police station by Jack Ruby two days after the assassination.

Shaw was discharged from Southern Baptist Hospital here Wednesday night after being treated for fatigue and an old back injury. He entered the hospital last Saturday.

His attorneys filed a motion Wednesday, approved by Garrison, asking permission for Shaw to spend the Easter holidays at an unspecified location on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The attorneys said Shaw could return to the city within three hours if necessary.

Arthur Strout, a 26-year-old Boston dishwasher, also was missing. A Garrison investigator said he wanted to talk to Strout, a former resident of Auburn, Maine, about a photograph he claimed to have showing him with Oswald, Ruby, Russo and two other men.

Strout claimed it was made in Ruby's Dallas night club about a month before Kennedy was killed.

William Garvin, a Garrison

aide, said he had bought a one-way airline ticket for Strout who was supposed to have left Boston late last week.

Strout's father said there was "no photograph. There never was one. Arthur would say he was with John Wilkes Booth at Lincoln's assassination if he thought he could get publicity out of it."



LEADING THE WITNESS — Perry Russo (right) key witness in the New Orleans district attorney's assassination probe, is led from a grand jury session by James Alcock, assistant district attorney, after Russo appeared before the secret board.

dicted Clay Shaw on a charge of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy. Russo testified at a preliminary last week that he heard Shaw plotting to murder President Kennedy at a meeting with David Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald.

AP wirephoto