

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

GRAND JURY HEARS FERRIE ROOMMATE

Martens Also Speaks to District Attorney

By CLARENCE DOUCET

Layton Martens, a roommate of David W. Ferrie in 1963 when a conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy was allegedly plotted here was closeted with District Attorney Jim Garrison and the Orleans Parish Grand Jury for 90 minutes Wednesday afternoon.

Martens, 24, said in a formal statement prior to his appearance before the panel that he personally is under no suspicion of any criminal activity.

He had arrived at the DA's office about 1:15 p. m., accompanied by his attorney, Milton Brenner, who was also with him during the time he was questioned before the grand jury.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

In other developments in Garrison's expanding investigation into the alleged conspiracy:

—An attempt by Gordon Novel, pegged as material witness, to have a warrant for his arrest invalidated was denied by Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr.

—Novel's attorney, who filed the motion to quash the arrest warrant, was given 48 hours to file an appeal of the ruling with the Louisiana Supreme Court.

—In Omaha, Neb., Mrs. Lillie Mae McMaines decided not to agree immediately to return to New Orleans to answer questions. Although the 22-year-old former New Orleans woman had indicated a desire to "get the thing over with," she indicated Wednesday that she wanted to obtain legal advice. A warrant for Mrs. McMaines' arrest had been issued in New Orleans and forwarded to Omaha,



WIREPHOTO.
LAYTON P. MARTENS
"Under no suspicion."

na, where authorities issued a warrant for her arrest as a fugitive. She was released on \$1,000 bond.

—Garrison acknowledged that there have been threats on his life since he launched the investigation, but he declined to

comment about precautions he may be taking. On Tuesday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed that a threat had been reported by an FBI office in Georgia. New Orleans police were contacted and they reportedly asked Garrison if he wanted additional protection.

FERRIE'S ROOMMATE

Martens was a roommate of Ferrie at the latter's apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy. during the fall of 1963.

Perry Raymond Russo, who has been Garrison's star witness thus far, claims that it was at that apartment in mid-September, 1963 that Ferrie, Lee Harvey Oswald and Clay L. Shaw plotted to murder Kennedy.

Ferrie died last Feb. 22. Oswald, who was named by the presidential commission appointed to investigate the assassination, as the lone killer,

was himself shot to death on Nov. 24, 1963, in Dallas, Texas.

Shaw, 54-year-old former managing director of the International Trade Mart, was arrested last March 1 for participating in the alleged conspiracy.

HELD FOR TRIAL

A four-day-long preliminary hearing for Shaw was held and a three-judge court decided there was probable cause to hold Shaw for trial.

The former roommate Martens issued this statement Wednesday:

"I am here in response to a subpoena to appear before the grand jury. I am cooperating now as I have consistently cooperated in the past.

"In my presence, my attorney was advised by the district attorney's office that I am not suspected of any criminal activity whatever. As far as we have been informed, the DA is interested only in my knowledge of certain individuals in the case.

"On the advice of my attorney, however, at the present time I will make no public statement about the matter under investigation by the district attorney's office."

GARRISON'S ARRIVAL

Garrison arrived at his office shortly before Martens. He was met by Willard E. Robertson, an official of Truth and Consequences, a private group set up to finance the local probe.

The DA, after Robertson had left, was asked about a statement that he, as district at-

torney, was not bound by guidelines set by Judge Haggerty as an attempt to prevent prejudicial publicity concerning Shaw's trial.

Garrison said it was his opinion that "The judge was just making a suggestion when he handed out the guidelines. The District Attorney can make any statements he wishes."

The question was apparently prompted by statements by author-lawyer Mark Lane who is in New Orleans and who says Garrison has confided his case to him.

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

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The Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

Date: 3-30-67

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

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

Character:

or

Classification: 89-

Submitting Office: N.O.

Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

CONVICTIONS FORECAST

Lane has said he believes Garrison will obtain convictions and that his evidence will shake the country from coast to coast.

Meanwhile, another statement by Lane that the alleged conspiracy probably involved anti-Castro Cubans drew quick criticism from Carlos Bringuier, the New Orleans delegate to the Cuban Student Directorate.

Bringuier said there is not the slightest possibility that anti-Castro Cubans were involved in the President's death.

He also said that he is going to forward to the House Un-American Activities Committee a report "telling them the whole truth as far as I know it in regard to the Garrison investigation."

Bringuier said he believes that "some time ago there had been going on some un-American activities" in New Orleans.

He asserted that Lane was "unreliable."

Mrs. McMaines' name was en-

tered into the probe by Russo who testified during Shaw's preliminary hearing that she had gone with him (Russo) to Ferrie's apartment the night of the alleged conspiratorial meeting.

She has denied this, although admitting to having once been in love with Russo. She says she did meet Ferrie, but it was not until 1965.

When she was taken into custody in Omaha on Tuesday, a hearing was set for April 25 on her extradition in the event she decides to fight the attempt to get her before the local grand jury.

However, Omaha officials as well as Mrs. McMaines indicate she will come here on her own accord. She has said she would like her 48-year-old husband, Howard, to accompany her when she comes.

While Judge Haggerty denied the motion to quash the capias for Novel's arrest, his whereabouts remained a mystery. Plotkin, his attorney, refused to comment on where he is.

SEVERAL REPORTS

The 29-year-old Novel reportedly sold his business interest, a night club at 800 N. Rampart, on March 19 and left the city. He has since been reported as having been in Columbus, Ohio, Chicago, Ill., and McLean, Va.

The district attorney's office had obtained a motion and order for Novel's arrest on March 23 on the basis of an affidavit charging him with being a material witness.

The DA's office claims Novel was scheduled to appear before the grand jury on March 22 but failed to appear.

Plotkin said at the hearing that the state was proceeding under the wrong article of the criminal code in obtaining the arrest warrant (capias), and when Asst. DA James L. Alcock moved to amend the affidavit on which the capias was issued, which the judge approved, Plotkin objected strenuously, claiming the state was "playing fast and loose with the court."

The argument was centered on a statement in the affidavit that there was good reason to believe Novel was in Columbus, Ohio.

The affidavit was amended to say simply that there were good grounds to fear that Novel would depart the state or be taken from the jurisdiction of the court.

In denying the motion to quash, Judge Haggerty expressed the opinion that the state had proceeded properly.

He also said that if Novel returns to the jurisdiction of the court he will reduce his bond or release him on his own recognizance.

During his absence from the city, Novel has been quoted as blasting Garrison's probe, claiming it is a fraud.

LANE BLASTED

Bringuier, in his rapping of Lane, charged that the anti-Castro conspiracy theory has been advanced by Communists trying to confuse world opinion.

Martens did not make any comment following his appearance before the grand jury.

He along with Ferrie and Alvin R. Beauboef were arrested by Garrison two days after the assassination. They were questioned by the DA's office and they made statements to federal authorities and then were released.

Beauboef has inherited Ferrie's estate, and Hugh B. Exnicios, Beauboef's attorney, says he intends "to show that David Ferrie had no connection with conspiring to assassinate the president."

An official in the DA's office has said that the trial of Shaw "and others" is three to six months away.



MRS. LILLIE MAE M'MAINES
Arrested in Omaha, posts bond.