

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Martens Posts Bond on Perjury Charge

The one-time roommate of key Kennedy assassination probe figure David W. Ferrie walked into Criminal District Court today to post bond pending trial on charges that he lied about the mysterious burglary of a Houma munitions dump in 1961.

Layton Patrick Martens, indicted for perjury by the Grand Jury yesterday, posted \$2,500 bond and was released.

Martens' appearance continued to spotlight the six-year-old munitions dump theft. Two other figures in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death inquiry have been accused of taking part in the burglary.

ACCOMPANIED BY his attorney, Milton Brener, the 24-year-old Martens went to the Criminal District Court clerk's office shortly before noon to post bond.

He handed a brief, written statement to newsmen. The statement concluded:

"I wish to state categorically that this (perjury) charge has no basis in fact."

Martens said, "The allegation of the indictment that I testified untruthfully, is itself untrue."

A senior at the University

of Southwestern Louisiana, Martens was dressed in a dark collegiate blazer, Ivy League striped shirt and slacks.

HIS APPEARANCE to post bail was delayed this morning when a slight hitch developed in confirming the property at 908 Joseph with which the appearance bond is secured. James Smith, whom Martens identified as his grandfather, signed the bond.

After handing reporters his typed statement, Martens declined to comment further. He was smiling and appeared to be in good spirits.

MARTENS' CASE was assigned to Judge Oliver J. Schulingkamp's Section F of Criminal District Court. Immediately after Martens posted bond, Judge Bernard J. Bagert signed an order permitting Martens to live outside the Orleans Parish area.

The Orleans Parish area, where the next phase of the conspiracy are known and will be arrested.

The Schlumberger bunker at an abandoned military air base near Houma was burglarized in August, 1961. Almost two years to the day later, federal agents seized more than a ton of explosives and war materials at a secluded frame house in St. Tammany Parish between Mandeville and Lacombe.

As Garrison's Kennedy investigation unfolded in early March, the New Orleans DA was reported looking for a group of men involved in hoarding the cache of munitions uncovered in 1963.

THE ST. TAMMANY house was owned by William Julius McLaney of New Orleans, who operated a tourist business in Cuba until driven out by Castro in 1960. Mrs. McLaney said they had loaned the house to a Cuban refugee she could identify only as "Jose Juarez."

No trace has been reported of Juarez, and no one has been charged in connection with the St. Tammany find. The munitions there included 100-pound bomb casings, bomb fuses, primer cord, blasting caps, and a thickener used to make napalm.

Arcacha, charged in the Houma munitions burglary, is a self-styled anti-Castro leader who established the New Orleans chapter of the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front in December of 1960 before the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion. Ferrie reportedly was active in anti-Castro affairs and was associated with Arcacha in 1961.

He was indicted within three hours after Clay L. Shaw, the only person so far charged in direct connection with the Kennedy death inquiry, faced his accusers at a formal arraignment in Criminal District Court and

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

PAGE 1
STATES-ITEM
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

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Edition: RED FLASH
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Editor:
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ENCLOSURE

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indictment so that he may continue music studies at Lafayette.

At Houma, meanwhile, Dist. Atty. Wilmore Broussard has ordered the arrests of fugitive witness Gordon Novel and erstwhile anti-Castro leader Sergio Vincente Arcacha Smith after charging them with burglary of the munitions bunker.

The 29-year-old Novel and Arcacha, 44, were charged earlier in New Orleans with conspiracy to steal explosives from the Schlumberger Wells Service bunker. Ferrie was named as a theft conspirator in the indictment along with unnamed "others."

Martens was the late Ferrie's roommate in 1963 when President Kennedy was shot on a Dallas street. Martens was accused of lying under oath and jurors cited three questions and answers to support the charge.

When Martens was called before the investigating jury March 29, his indictment said, the colloquy went this way:

Q—How often—How well did you know Gordon Novel?

A—I don't recall ever hearing of or meeting Gordon Novel.

Q—Are you telling me that even when the boxes were being removed from the bunker you did not know the purpose of the trip?

A—No, as best I can remember, I was there. Yes, I do remember being there. The purpose of the trip was not revealed to me.

Q—You do not remember Sergio Arcacha Smith being on the trip?

A—No, I don't.

Arcacha Smith was arrested at Dallas Monday and freed on \$1,500 bail under a New Orleans warrant charging

him with conspiracy to burglarize the explosives dump. Gordon Novel, wanted here as a material witness in Garrison's assassination inquiry, was taken into custody on the same charge at a Columbus, Ohio, suburb Saturday. He is free on \$10,000 bond.

The district attorney at Houma said he filed simple burglary charges against both Arcacha and Novel late yesterday and has ordered their arrests. DA Broussard said he will initiate extradition proceedings against both men if they refuse to return voluntarily.

BROUSSARD declined to reveal what time of day the bunker was burglarized or what kind of explosives were taken. He would not say whether he expects to charge others in the theft.

William Gurvich, chief investigator for Garrison, has said the "others" in the conspiracy were not guilty.

Shaw, a 54-year-old retired New Orleans businessman, was indicted here March 22, charged with plotting Kennedy's murder together with Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald.

GARRISON CONTENDS the plotting was done at Ferrie's apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy., where the late pilot roomed with Martens. Ferrie was found dead there within days after his name was linked publicly to the inquiry. A coroner's report said he died of natural causes.

Reached at Lafayette late yesterday, Martens said he expected the perjury indictment and added:

"It's just an attempt by Garrison to discredit any and all witnesses who did not bolster the Garrison investigation."

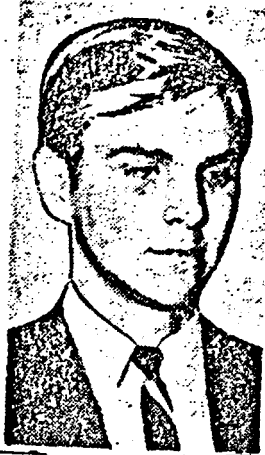
Martens said he took a lie detector test in Garrison's office last December, "and it was positive in my favor."

As the grand jury continued its inquiry yesterday, another witness tied closely with Novel appeared to testify.

HE WAS IDENTIFIED as Rancier Blaise Ehlinger, 28, of Metairie, and his attorney said he had known Novel for a dozen years, both socially and in business.

Police records show Ehlinger and Novel were arrested here in 1959 and charged with the theft of a car from Baton Rouge. The stolen auto, a Corvette, was found in a garage the two men rented at 2917 College sts., according to Baton Rouge police records.

Charges were dropped against the pair when a third youth admitted the theft.



LAYTON PATRICK MARTENS