

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Rejects Gordon Novel's Offer to Return

The District Attorney's office, which describes Gordon Novel as an important material witness in its assassination conspiracy probe, turned down his conditional offer to return to New Orleans voluntarily Friday.

Novel, Irée on bond in Columbus, Ohio, where DA Jim Garrison had him arrested on a conspiracy - to - commit simple burglary charge, made the offer - with many conditions attached - at a news conference during which he also said:

- That his card naming him a brigadier general on the staff of Gov. John J. McKeithen is legitimate, and was given to him when he worked for the governor in 1965 and 1966.

- That he knows "absolutely nothing" about any conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

IMMUNITY SOUGHT

Strings attached to Novel's offer to return included immunity from prosecution on the 1961 burglary charge.

Meanwhile in New Orleans, a hearing on a motion to quash the perjury indictment of attorney Dean Andrews was postponed at the request of the state. The indictment charges Andrews perjured himself before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in assassination conspiracy investigation testimony.

In Baton Rouge, Col. Thomas Burbank, superintendent of state police, announced that two of his officers had helped District Attorney Jim Garrison in his investigation about a month ago.

CHECKING RECORDS

"He wanted to check some records in the Bureau of Identification," Burbank said. The officers did the checking in Baton Rouge and delivered

certain records to Garrison's office in New Orleans, he said.

Burbank said he did not inquire about the names of the persons checked.

Novel also said he would insist on being questioned by the grand jury without Garrison's presence.

"I would like to go back and testify to a grand jury that isn't loaded," he said. He maintained that the body is "composed of some of his (Garrison's) best friends."

Another Novel request was immunity from any "further charges, intimidation and harassment." He also asked to be allowed to return to Ohio after testifying.

WILL WIRE FOREMAN

Jerry Weiner, Novel's Columbus attorney, said he would telegraph the same conditions to the foreman of the grand jury.

Novel also wants the same conditions to apply to other state officials. Terrebonne Parish authorities have charged him and Sergio Archacha Smith with the burglary of a munitions bunker of Slumberger Well Service near Houma in August of 1961.

Novel, awaiting extradition action by Garrison, added that he knows "absolutely nothing" about any conspiracy to assassinate Kennedy.

One reaction to Novel's offer was from Assistant DA James L. Alcock: "He's not going to dictate conditions to us. He's not in a dictating position."

"Mr. Novel is a fugitive from justice, and we're going to get him back on our own conditions."

John McElroy, chief assistant to Ohio Governor James H. Rhodes, said earlier this week that Louisiana has not returned to Ohio a man, Eugene Woods, arrested in the New Orleans area on an Ohio charge of larceny by trick. He said he didn't know if a trade for Novel would be involved.

Jefferson records reveal that Eugene H. Woods was arrested as a fugitive from Ohio, where he is wanted for larceny by trick. Woods' attorney, John F. Rau Jr., said he has filed a motion to suppress the Ohio indictment on the grounds it resulted from an illegal search.

GENERAL'S CARD

Novel said that he worked for Gov. McKeithen during a political campaign in 1965 and 1966 and that his brigadier general's

card bears the governor's signature and is dated Aug. 10, 1965.

Novel said he was part of a campaign surveillance staff, and that he was McKeithen's "chief confidant."

Novel said he manufactures electronic "bugging" equipment, but would not comment on whether he had tapped any wires for the governor.

McKeithen was involved in a campaign for a constitutional amendment permitting him to succeed himself in office.

McKeithen's denial that a general's card was issued to him "just isn't true," Novel said.

Col. Burbank said there was a tip "from a reliable source" in 1965 that electronic eavesdropping equipment would be used to "bug" the governor's office.

A spokesman for Gov. McKeithen confirmed that a firm which Novel headed supplied "anti-bugging" equipment to the governor's office in 1965.

The first action at Andrew's hearing Friday morning was a request by the defendant that his name be placed on record as an attorney representing himself, along with his regular attorney, Sam "Monk" Zelden.

CONTINUANCE ASKED

After this was granted by Criminal District Judge Frank J. Shea, assistant DA Alcock said, "Your honor, the state

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TIMES PICAYUNE

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advocates for a continuance of one week of this hearing."

Zelden jumped to his feet protesting that due to the "unusual circumstances connected with the defendant" it would be to Andrew's disadvantage to delay the case.

Alcock cited the 73 pages of grand jury testimony and said "the state would like a little more time to study the situation."

Judge Shea said, "I can't see how one week is going to change anything that much," and added that Andrews is getting an exceptionally fast hearing.

NEW MOTIONS FILED

Zelden later filed four new motions. One of them asked the judge to extend the time for filing special pleadings until May 1, on the grounds that the defense has not been furnished with a list of witnesses, nor with the entire transcript of Grand Jury testimony.

The motion further contends that the indictment does not contain the pertinent provision to the section of the criminal code allegedly violated.

Another motion is for an order permitting grand jurors to go into court and disclose the testimony alleged to be perjurious.

A third motion asked for a copy of testimony for Andrews. The fourth was similar, but was filed for technical legal reasons.



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
DEAN A. ANDREWS JR. (left) and his attorney, Monk Zelden, leave the Criminal District Courts Building Friday after obtaining postponement of one week a hearing on a motion to dismiss a perjury charge against Andrews. Judge Frank Shea granted the postponement.



—AP WIREPHOTO.
GORDON NOVEL displays a "Louisiana brigadier general's card" he possesses, even though Louisiana officials insist it is not legitimate. Novel and his Columbus, Ohio, lawyer, Jerry Weiner, met newsmen Friday in Columbus to say that Novel will return voluntarily to New Orleans for questioning in an investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. If he is granted immunity from prosecution and if several other conditions are met.