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Two Grand Juries Quiz DA Plot Probe Figures Panels Meet In Orleans, Terrebonne

The Orleans Parish Grand Jury and the Terrebonne Parish Grand Jury both were convened today to take a look at separate phases of District Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe.

In Houma, the Terrebonne Grand Jury was meeting to investigate charges by Garrison that probe figures Gordon Novel, Sergio Arcacha Smith, the late David W. Ferrie and others conspired to burglarize a Schlumberger Wells Services munitions bunker near Houma during the summer of 1961.

Garrison, who had been subpoenaed to appear before the Terrebonne jury, was excused today by the Houma criminal court, when the parish DA's office said it did not need Garrison today.

The local grand jury was in session to consider several routine matters but, during the morning, called two witnesses in connection with the DA's probe.

MRS. JOSEPHINE HUG, who had worked for the International Trade Mart as a secretary during Clay L. Shaw's tenure as managing director, appeared outside the jury room about 10 a.m. and was closeted with the jury for more than an hour. Shaw is accused of conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy and is expected to come to trial late next month or in October.

The second witness was Miguel Torres, who was brought to New Orleans from the Angola State Penitentiary under a writ of habeas corpus to testify today.

Torres, a 29-year-old Cuban exile serving a sentence for burglary, was a one-time heroin addict and has been questioned by Garrison's office on a number of occasions in connection with the probe. Torres has said publicly that the DA's office offered him his freedom, one ounce of heroin and a three-month vacation in Florida if he would be "cooperative" in the investigation.

In addition to Garrison, the Terrebonne jury subpoenaed the following:

—Ted Cobb, field service manager for Schlumberger at Morgan City. Cobb was employed at Houma during

the period when the burglary is alleged to have occurred.

—William Gurvich, New Orleans private detective who at one time was Garrison's chief investigative aide in the probe and who quit recently, charging that Garrison's investigation has no basis in fact.

—Rancier B. Ehlinger, a former business associate of Gordon Novel. Ehlinger has also been questioned by the Orleans grand jury. Novel,

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STATES-ITEM

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charged with the burglary conspiracy is the former French Quarter night club owner who has managed to evade all of Garrison's attempts to bring him back to New Orleans for questioning as a material witness.

--Maicene Mancuso, ex-wife of Noel. Miss Mancuso was accompanied today by her attorney, G. Wray Gill.

--Ptn. Leroy Belanger of the Houma Police Department. Belanger was one of the officers who investigated the theft complaint.

Garrison has accused Novel and Arcacha, a former anti-Castro leader in New Orleans, of conspiring with Ferrie to rob the banker. Arcacha, like Novel, has evaded Garrison's

attempts to question him as a material witness. He lives in Dallas now. Ferrie was the pilot who died Feb. 22 and who Garrison has charged plotted with Shaw and others to kill the President.

The Garrison charge alleges that the conspiracy took place in Arcacha's home in New Orleans and that the men went to Houma for the burglary on or about Aug. 21, 1961.

Novel and Arcacha also have been charged with the burglary by Terrebonne DA Wilmore Broussard.

Court Rules DA's Answers Adequate

Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. ruled today that the answer given by the District Attorney's office to a motion by attorneys for Clay L. Shaw was sufficient.

Attorneys for Shaw, charged with criminal conspiracy in the slaying of President John F. Kennedy, had asked for fuller explanations of answers by DA Jim Garrison's office to their request for a bill of particulars.

The defense wanted to know the specific time Shaw is alleged to have met with Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby at the Capitol House in Baton Rouge.

The DA's office previously said the meeting was between 2 and 9 p. m. on Sept. 3, 1963, and Judge Haggerty today

ruled this was sufficient explanation.

Also ruled sufficient was the DA's answer to the request for information on Shaw's trip to the West coast at the time of the Kennedy assassination, Nov. 22, 1963.