

Judges rule witnesses don't have to go

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LOS ANGELES, Jan. 26 (LNS) —Judges in Los Angeles and Bakersfield have ruled that Loran Eugene Hall and Lawrence Howard, recently subpoenaed as material witnesses by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, will not be required to go to New Orleans.

Garrison said in the subpoenas that Hall and Howard were in Dallas from October 16, 1963 until the assassination and that both had an opportunity to know of an assassination plot. Garrison said that Hall brought a .30 caliber rifle with him.

In Bakersfield, Hall pleaded that he was not in Dallas more than a few days. The judge ruled that "Hall is either not a material witness or he has perjured himself. If he has perjured himself, I see no reason to transfer that perjury to New Orleans."

The judge did not request an investigation into possible perjury and was content to let the matter rest.

In Los Angeles, Howard also denied that he was in Dallas when Garrison said he was. He produced employment records to prove it and denied knowing Clay Shaw, David Ferrie, Lee Oswald, Jack Ruby, or Edgar Eugene Bradley.

Howard's attorney, Bruce Wolf, called Bradley to the stand. Bradley has been accused by Garrison of conspiring to murder President Kennedy. He denied ever knowing Lawrence Howard

Deputy District Attorney (of Los Angeles) Joe Carr represented the District Attorney of New Orleans. He called no witnesses

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and asked few questions.

Judge Shure ruled that "The evidence in the warrant is not nearly so persuasive as the testimony today. The warrant is denied."

Afterwards, Howard said, "I'm glad I don't have to go. I fear for my life if I do."

"But I may go anyhow," he added.

"The only reason I'm in this thing is because of a rash and outrageous lie by Hall," Howard said. He was referring to Hall's statement to the FBI that Howard was with him when he visited a Cuban exile in Dallas, Sylvia Odio. Odio told the Warren Commission that two Cubans and a man who looked like Lee Oswald had visited her in September, 1963, and spoke of assassinating President Kennedy.

Both Howard and Hall have offered to give Garrison sworn affidavits from California.