

Mental Tests Due For Attorney With JFK Killing 'Proof'

BOS. REC. AUGER - 3/28/67

BISMARCK, N. D. (UPI)—An attorney on trial in a \$3 million insurance fraud case told a judge he was forced off a highway at gunpoint yesterday as he drove here with documents that "prove" that President Kennedy was assassinated by killers other than Lee Harvey Oswald.

The judge promptly declared a mistrial and ordered a mental examination for the attorney.

The bizarre story was told by Atty. David R. Kroman, 43, who was found partially conscious—a loaded shotgun across his knees—in a rented car on the shoulder of a highway about 30 miles east of Bismarck.

U. S. District Court judge Edward Devitt ordered a mistrial in the charges against Kroman. The judge said "there is reasonable cause to believe that Kroman may be insane or otherwise so mentally incompetent that he is unable to assist in his own defense.

Devitt revoked Kroman's \$5000 recognizance bond and ordered him committed for 45 days to the federal penal hospital at Springfield, Mo., for mental examination.

NOT FULLY CONSCIOUS

Kroman, once an insurance commission attorney and political candidate in Minnesota, was found in a locked car. Highway patrolman Herbert J. Elter said Kroman was alternately opening and closing his eyes and was not fully conscious.

He was taken to Bismarck Hospital, where Dr. Gerd Fischer, a neurologist, made a preliminary examination and reported that he was suffering from paralysis of the left arm and leg. The paralysis cleared in six hours, the doctor told the court.

Kroman told Devitt he was convinced that the highway incident was connected with his investigation of the Kennedy assassination and not with his trial with four other defendants in an alleged insurance fraud

conspiracy involving American Allied Insurance Co. of St. Paul, Minn.

WON'T STOP PROBE

"Nineteen people have died in connection with the Kennedy investigation," Kroman told the judge. "I don't want to be the 20th but I will not stop it (the investigation)."

Chief federal prosecutor Patrick J. Foley said he considered Kroman's story of the alleged attack a ruse.

The judge's ruling of a mistrial applied only to Kroman. It was resisted by attorneys for defendants Phillip Kitzer Sr., Chicago insurance man, and Minnesota insurance commissioner Cyrus Magnusson.

An attorney for another defendant, Phillip Kitzer, Jr., said he would consider press reports of yesterday's incident and might ask today that a mistrial be ordered for all defendants.

Kroman told Devitt that two automobiles began following his car in Minnesota early yesterday as he drove toward Bismarck with documents he intended to unveil at a news conference last night.

IDENTITY UNKNOWN

Kroman told the court he did not know the identity of his alleged assailants but knew "who they represented."

"In the 1950s, the government, in order to ruin a man, called him a Communist," he told the judge. "Now they call him some kind of nut."

Before he went into federal court to fight a prosecution motion to revoke his bond, Kroman told newsmen in a hospital room news conference that he had been in touch with James Garrison, New Orleans

District Attorney who says he has "solved" the Kennedy assassination.

"Jim Garrison has most of it correct but not the whole story," Kroman said.

STATEWIDE POLL

New Dallas Quiz, Bob Kennedy Get Student Support

BY DICK TURPIN

Times Education Writer

Significant numbers of California high school students favor a new, major investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas and give strong support for Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) for President, according to a statewide poll.

A survey conducted by the California Junior Statesmen of America showed that 63% of 46,985 participants said a new probe into circumstances surrounding the death of the President should be conducted.

Almost 53% of those polled favored Kennedy for President, by a four-to-one margin over President Johnson in most of the 90 participating schools. Michigan's Gov. George Romney and former Vice President Richard M. Nixon also topped Mr. Johnson.

All Counties Polled

Peter LeVine, governor of the organization, said the schools represent every county in the state.

The Junior Statesmen group, now in its 32nd year, is devoted to educating youth to the principles of democracy and has 3,000 members.

LeVine said the survey is the first of its kind undertaken by the organization on a statewide basis. Survey forms were mailed to every public high school in the state in early February and 90 responded.

Other results showed:

Students generally favor the current war policy in Vietnam by a 44% vote supporting the Johnson administration.

Over 47% oppose any proposed tuition for the University of California or the state colleges.

Draft Law Opposed

A universal draft law is opposed by 48% while 44.3% favor it.

Half of those polled favored lowering the voting age to 18 but a strong 41.8% voted against lowering

11. The question of admitting Red China into the United Nations evoked a 53% "no" vote.

The statewide count on the Presidential election query showed Kennedy received 18,507 votes; Romney, 5,230; Nixon, 3,461; Mr. Johnson, 3,218; New York's Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, 1,209; Gov. Reagan, 1,154; Vice President Humphrey, 892, and former U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater, 619.

Man Tells Bizarre Tale of Plot; Ordered Held

BISMARCK, N.D. (UPI) —An attorney on trial in a \$3 million insurance fraud case told a judge he was forced off a highway at gunpoint Monday as he drove here with documents that "prove" President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by killers other than Lee Harvey Oswald.

The judge promptly declared a mistrial and ordered a mental examination for the attorney.

The bizarre story was told by attorney David R. Kroman, 43, who was found partly conscious—with a loaded shotgun in his car—at 4 a.m. on the shoulder of a highway about 30 miles east of Bismarck.

U.S. Dist. Court Judge Edward Devitt ordered the mistrial. The judge said: "There is reasonable cause to believe that Kroman may be insane or otherwise so mentally incompetent that he is unable to assist in his own defense."

Ordered Confined

Devitt revoked Kroman's \$5,000 recognizance bond and ordered him committed for 45 days to the federal penal hospital at Springfield, Mo., for mental examination.

Kroman was taken to Bismarck hospital, where Dr. Gerd Fischer, a neurologist, made a preliminary examination and reported that he was suffering from paralysis of the left arm and leg. The paralysis cleared in six hours, the doctor told the court.

Kroman's defense attorney said Kroman had suffered from an apparent epileptic seizure.

Kroman told Devitt he was convinced that the

highway incident was connected with his investigation of the Kennedy assassination and not with his trial.

Kroman, Cyrus E. Magnusson, Minnesota insurance commissioner, and three others are charged with using mails and falsified financial statements to defraud thousands of automobile insurance policyholders. They allegedly represented the American Allied Insurance Co. of St. Paul as being solvent while its resources were being siphoned off.

The mistrial order does not apply to the other defendants.

Kroman told the court he did not know the identity of his alleged assailants but knew "who they represented."

Before he went to court, Kroman told a hospital news conference that he had been in touch with Jim Garrison, New Orleans district attorney who says he has solved the Kennedy assassination.

"Jim Garrison has most of it correct but not the whole story," Kroman said.

"I have documents which tend to prove or in some cases do prove that Oswald did not assassinate Kennedy and that other persons did," Kroman said. He said he might "name names" later.

He said he began an investigation of the assassination in December, 1963, when he heard "a drunken Cuban babbling" in a Miami bar.

Kennedy Slaying Book Released Prematurely

Breach of Publication Date Adds Another Disputed Chapter to Manchester's Work

BY ANDREW J. GLASS

Exclusive to The Times from the Washington Post

WASHINGTON — William Manchester's controversial account of the death of President John F. Kennedy — a book attacked by the Kennedy family and likely to become one of the best selling volumes of the decade—was released prematurely to the public Tuesday.

The April 6 publication date of "The Death of a President" was breached by Pittsburgh department stores and by Women's Wear Daily, a fashion trade newspaper, which reviewed the volume after it went on sale in Pittsburgh.

A spokesman for the book's beleaguered publisher, Harper & Row, said the books mistakenly were delivered a week early to Kaufmann's Department Store in Pittsburgh. The store then ignored pleas from the publisher to keep the volumes off its shelves until the scheduled publication date. Two other Pittsburgh stores then put the book on sale.

In New York, Cass Canfield, chairman of Harper & Row, said the publisher regretted the breach of the release date.

Vast Profit for Library

The premature release added yet another disputed chapter to a book that had been repudiated by Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy as, "in part . . . tasteless and distorted," and that is expected to yield millions of dollars for the Kennedy Memorial Library in Cambridge, Mass.

The struggle that raged

for months between Manchester and members of the Kennedy family—who had commissioned the project in 1964—finally erupted last December in a court suit aimed at blocking publication.

The suit was settled after about seven pages in the 710-page book were deleted. Mrs. Kennedy felt the offending passages were too personal.

Sabotage Indicated

Much of the controversial material in the 350,000-word book, which has a retail list price of \$10, has already appeared in four 15,000-word installments in Look magazine.

In the full version of the assassination, Manchester asserts that a gradual failure of telephone service in the Washington

area shortly after the tragedy in Dallas raised the possibility of sabotage.

Manchester said the telephone tie-up was so encompassing that Sen. Edward M. (Ted) Kennedy (D-Mass.) was forced to roam the streets, trying the phones of strangers, until he could get a call through to Robert F. Kennedy to learn if their brother had died.

The author said this proved that "telephones would become highly unreliable" in the event of a national disaster. Therefore, he said, the Army Signal Corps should be allowed to link the phones of all key administration officials in an emergency system.

The Chesapeake & Po-

tomac Telephone Co. here said the "only effect" of the heavy traffic "was that the dial tone was a little slow." And the Defense Department contended, in

response, that existing military communications facilities are adequate.

The previously unreported material in the Manchester book includes such items as:

1—The President's widow overruled a suggestion by the Roman Catholic hierarchy that the funeral be at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here as well as the idea of Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston that the President be entombed in the middle of Boston Common.

2—The President was buried in a casket that

cost \$1,400 because the White House aides who selected the coffin were influenced by Jessica Mitford's critical study of funeral practices, "The American Way of Death"

3 — French President Charles de Gaulle was urged not to walk behind the casket after the Central Intelligence Agency received an "absolutely reliable" report that he would be assassinated. When he refused, Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover made a final appeal to De Gaulle, whose reply was "pfft."

Garrison Orders Woman Arrested

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's office obtained a court order yesterday for the arrest of a former New Orleans woman who contradicted testimony of Garrison's star witness against businessman Clay L. Shaw.

Bond was set at \$5000 for

Sandra Moffitt, "Alias Lilly Mae McMaines," of Omaha, Neb. She was ordered picked up as a material witness in Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Perry R. Russo, a 25-year-old Baton Rouge, La., insurance salesman, testified in Shaw's preliminary hearing March 14-

17 that he attended a party with Miss Moffitt in September of 1963 at which Shaw helped plot Kennedy's death.

Russo said the party was at the apartment of the late David W. Ferrie, the mysterious pilot who died this year of a brain hemorrhage. He said Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of President Kennedy, and Ferrie were the two co-conspirators.

But the young woman told newsmen in Omaha last week that she did not go to the party and that she never met Ferrie until 1965. **END**