

# Castro Foe Is Friend Of Arcacha

ST. 5-23-67

Carlos Quiroga, one-time close friend of a fugitive witness from Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation, was subpoenaed today to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Quiroga, who was active with 44-year-old Sergie Arcacha Smith in anti-Castro

(An interview with Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison will be found on Page 23.)

activities here in the early 1960s, was ordered to appear at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Quiroga was a member of the Cuban Revolutionary Council which was led by Arcacha until its offices at 544 Camp st. were closed in early 1962.

**THE YOUNG CUBAN** exile has publicly denied any knowledge of the alleged death plot. He lives at 3134 Derby pl.

Meanwhile, new extradition papers have been dispatched from Baton Rouge to Columbus, Ohio, seeking the return of another fugitive witness, Gordon Novel.

William Redmann, executive counsel to the governor, said the papers were sent to Columbus yesterday after being received from Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

Efforts to reach Novel, who reported that he was shot at and wounded by flying glass

at Nashville Sunday, were unsuccessful today. The States-Item was told Novel was traveling South—but not to New Orleans.

**THE NEW EFFORT** to extradite the former New Or-

leans bar operator comes almost a month after Gov. James Rhodes of Ohio had rejected the first extradition papers.

Rhodes asked for technical corrections in the original papers sent back April 21 and also wanted to know if a federal crime was involved in the burglary conspiracy charge.

Garrison is attempting to have Novel brought back to Louisiana on a burglary conspiracy charge in connection with the burglary of a munition bunker in Houma.

Gov. Rhodes, in a followup letter April 24, also demanded assurances that Garrison did not plan to question Novel about the assassination of President Kennedy.

Garrison termed Rhodes' demand as incredible.

Redmann said the papers were forwarded to Columbus as a matter of procedure and that no copies were kept on file in the governor's office.

**IT WAS NOT CERTAIN** if Garrison met all of the demands in Rhodes' letters rejecting the first set of papers.

A source close to the governor said McKeithen wanted Novel returned to Louisiana "in the worst way."

A radio station in Nashville claimed it has a tape recording by Novel of a conversation including Garrison and McKeithen. The station said the tapes would blow up Gar-

rison's investigation.

Meanwhile, fugitive witness Sergio Arcacha Smith, 44, is ready to talk with Garrison about the Kennedy death investigation "so long as he doesn't have to go into the lair of Mr. Garrison."

That is what Arcacha's lawyer, Ernest Colvin Jr., told the Texas secretary of state during an extradition hearing at Austin yesterday.

Colvin charged that Garrison is "a man who is power mad" and said Arcacha fears for his life if he is returned for testimony to New Orleans.

The State of Louisiana is attempting to extradite Arcacha on the same charges which have been lodged against Novel. Both are freed on bond.

Arcacha was the leader of a militant anti-Castro Cuban organization here during the early 1960s.

Garrison contends Kennedy's death resulted from the ire and frustration of anti-Castro Cubans disillusioned when the President halted anti-Communist training operations here in the summer of 1963.

The only man charged with complicity in the president's murder is 54-year-old Clay L. Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman. He is free on \$10,000 bond awaiting trial.

Colvin accused Garrison of using "the law like a damn club" and added: "This is the type of thing the governor of Texas should not put his

stamp of approval on."

**SECRETARY OF STATE**

John Hill said he would make a transcript of the hearing and pass it along to Gov. John Connally, the man who was wounded when Kennedy was killed. No decision is expected on the extradition for several days.

Meanwhile, Novel returned to Columbus and left again, reportedly heading for a Southern point to hide.

Novel said he was shot at several times by a concealed gunman Sunday and was struck in the arm by flying glass.

Novel's Columbus attorney, Jerry Weiner, said the incident took place at Nashville, Tenn. He said Novel was wounded by a bullet splinter. Earlier reports said the one-time New Orleans bar owner was hit by flying glass.

Weiner said he received a telephone call, which "sounded like long distance," threatening Novel's life two days before the Nashville shooting incident.

The Columbus attorney said a voice told him, "If Novel doesn't return to New Orleans on his own, he's going to return in a hearse."

Weiner said Novel's girl friend, a nightclub singer at Columbus, received a similar threatening call.

Weiner said he has arranged constant "protection" for both himself and his client. **END**

5-25-61

# Novel Admitted Bunker Theft, Rhodes Is Told

An affidavit filed with new extradition papers to Columbus, Ohio, claims that Gordon Novel admitted his part in a burglary of a munitions bunker in Houma in 1961.

The new extradition papers were sent to Ohio Gov. James Rhodes as part of Orleans Parish Dist. Attorney Jim Garrison's efforts to bring Novel back to Louisiana on a burglary conspiracy charge.

Garrison wants Novel in connection with his investigation of President Kennedy's assassination.

James L. Alcock, an assistant district attorney, said in the affidavit:

"The said Gordon Novel responded to questioning by Jim Garrison, district attorney for the Parish of Orleans, and William Gurvich, investigative aide to Jim Garrison, that he and the parties named herein did in fact commit the conspiracy and burglary outlined above."

In the body of the affidavit, Alcock declared that Novel, Sergio Arcacha Smith, David W. Ferrie and other unnamed persons "did conspire, agree, and combine to burglarize a munitions bunker located in Houma, La."

He said the conspiracy was entered into in New Orleans at the home of Arcacha.

Alcock said that the men went to Houma on or about Aug. 21, 1961.

"The trip was made from New Orleans to Houma at night in a Lincoln automobile owned and driven by Gordon Novel and in a panel truck.

"AFTER ARRIVING at the site of the bunker, which was leased by Schlumberger Well Services Corp., the defendant, Gordon Novel, Sergio Arcacha Smith, David W. Ferrie, and others, unnamed, unlawfully entered it by cutting the lock with a pair of bolt cutters which had been brought along for the purpose.

"After entry into the bunker (they) took various forms of explosives and munitions. Thereafter they returned to the city of New Orleans with the stolen munitions."

The extradition papers also included a photograph of Novel identified by a former girl friend, Marlene Mancuso, 42 Oaklawn dr., Metairie, who had dated Novel in 1961.

THE DOCUMENTS also contain a copy of the simple burglary charge leveled against Novel and Arcacha by the sheriff of Terrebonne Parish. The affidavit was signed by Capt. Bert Boyne.

Meanwhile, the DA's office said a new figure in the investigation scheduled for questioning today was interviewed last night by a Garrison aide.

A DA's office spokesman declined to say what questions were asked or what information was obtained from the man.

He is Juan M. Valdes, a self-described Latin playwright who figured in one of the city's more sensational murders. A subpoena was issued for him yesterday.

Valdes in the summer of 1964 discovered the mutilated body of Dr. Mary Stults Sherman, a women physician who occupied the same St. Charles ave. apartment building where the summoned witness lives.

HE WAS investigating smoke coming from the Sherman apartment when he stumbled onto the body. Dr. Sherman's

killer, who has never been found, tried to burn the body.

Garrison would not comment on what questions will be asked Valdes.

Another Latin, 30-year-old Carlos Quiroga, spent two hours and ten minutes before the grand jury yesterday and emerged without comment.

QUIROGA, a Cuban exile, was once a close friend and associate of a fugitive witness from the Garrison inquiry, 44-year-old Sergio Arcacha Smith.

# Novel Asks Millions In DA, Backers Suit

A suit which may total as much as \$50 million in alleged damages was filed against Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and members of Truth and Consequences today in Federal District Court.

The action was brought by a 29-year-old former New Orleans bar owner, Gordon Novel, whom Garrison has termed an important witness in the DA's Kennedy death plot investigation.

**ACTING THROUGH** attorneys here and in Columbus, Ohio, Novel brought the action against Garrison, Willard Robertson, Joseph Rault Jr., Cecil Shilstone and all members of the private organization which is funding the Garrison inquiry.

Robertson, Rault and Shilstone, all New Orleans business leaders, are the organizers and leaders of Truth and Consequences.

The Novel suit asks \$10 million in damages from the DA and \$1 million each from the three other defendants, Truth and Consequences and "John Does" which the action identifies as members of the organization.

Steven Plotkin of New Orleans and Jerry Weiner of Columbus, Ohio, signed the action filed with the U.S. District Court Clerk.

**THE SUIT CHARGES** the "various defendants" conspired to "use the office of the district attorney of Orleans Parish to charge various individuals with being involved" in a plot to kill Kennedy.

It charges that Garrison's statements and accusations against Novel have ruined his

"reputation as a man of honesty, honor and probity."

Until the Garrison investigation began, the suit declared, Novel had never been "suspected of or charged with crimes of being a material witness; conspiring to commit simple burglary, theft of merchandise or being or in any way to have knowledge of a conspiracy to assassinate the late John F. Kennedy."

**NOVEL IS FREE** on \$10,000 bond at Columbus where he was arrested April 1 on a warrant from Garrison's office charging him with conspiring to burglarize a munitions dump at Houma.

Since the original arrest, Terrebonne Parish authorities have charged Novel with burglarizing the bunker. The theft charges from Orleans Parish also have been lodged against him. Both grew out of alleged bad debts.

Novel's suit contends Garrison and members of Truth and Consequences conspired . . . "maliciously intending to injure the plaintiff."

It said Garrison's actions against Novel forced him to leave New Orleans and take sanctuary in another state. A jury trial was requested in the action.

**THE SUIT WAS** accompanied by a group of questions seeking the names of the members of Truth and Consequences, its charter position and how its funds are distributed and used.

Truth and Consequences was established shortly after the Garrison investigation became public when the DA complained that public recording of his office's expenditures was hampering the probe. It was organized by about 50 of the city's businessmen who agreed to contribute funds.

Judge James A. Comiskey ordered a hearing on the suit next Wednesday. **END**

# Subpena Latin

## Playwright in DA Plot Probe

A new figure entered Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation today when a self-described Latin playwright was subpoenaed to appear in the DA's office.

Spokesmen for Garrison said the subpoena to appear at 10 a. m. tomorrow was issued for Juan M. Valdes, who resides in an apartment house on St. Charles.

Valdes was in the news in 1964 when he discovered the body of a slain woman physician, Dr. Mary Sherman, at the apartment building.

**GARRISON REFUSED** to comment on the subject about which Valdes will be questioned.

Valdes was a neighbor of Dr. Sherman. He discovered the mutilated body as he went to investigate smoke coming from the Sherman apartment.

Dr. Sherman's slayer, who has not been found, attempted to set fire to the body.

Meanwhile, the Orleans Parish grand jury was scheduled to question a 30-year-old Cuban exile who was once a close friend of a fugitive witness from the Garrison inquiry.

The summons was issued yesterday to Carlos Quiroga of 3134 Derby pl.

Quiroga has said he was active in the Cuban Revolutionary Council, which was led until early 1962 by 44-year-old Sergio Arcacha Smith.

### ARCACHA IS FREE on

\$1,500 bond in Dallas, fighting extradition to New Orleans. Garrison wants him both as a witness and to answer burglary conspiracy charges.

He is charged with conspiring with the late David W. Ferrie and another fugitive witness, Gordon Novel, 29, to burglarize a munitions bunker at Houma in 1961.

Ferrie, who died in Feb-

ruary, is one of three men Garrison charges conspired to murder John F. Kennedy at Dallas in November, 1963.

**THE OTHER TWO** named as conspirators are 54-year-old New Orleanian Clay L. Shaw and the man the Warren Commission said was Kennedy's lone slayer, Lee Harvey Oswald. Oswald was shot to death by Jack Ruby two days after the assassination.

Shaw, who stoutly denies complicity in the presidential slaying, is free on \$10,000 bond, awaiting trial. He was indicted March 22 after a preliminary hearing bound him over for court action.