

Former Apartment Of Novel Ransacked

By HOKE MAY

The apartment where the Gordon Novel letter was found has been ransacked and burglarized, its occupants told the district attorney's office today.

Two young women who rented the Vieux Carre living quarters after Novel fled New Orleans said they found the lock ripped from the door Thursday evening.

Neighbors said they heard "someone walking around" in the upstairs apartment "most of the day."

THAT WAS BEFORE the States-Item first reported the finding of the Novel letter draft which asks a "Mr. Weiss" to get him "out of this mess" in March.

Novel is fighting extradition as a burglary conspiracy suspect whom Dist. Atty. Jim

Garrison wants as a material witness in his Kennedy death plot investigation.

The young women said their apartment was "a mess" after the intruder methodically searched through cabinets, dresser drawers, personal papers and clothes belonging to the occupants.

A TELEVISION SET and a radio were stolen during the foray, but Asst. DA Andrew

Sciambra said he believed the theft was "no more than a cover."

"I don't believe there is any doubt that this entry and search was directly connected with the finding of Novel's letter," the DA's aide asserted.

"There is too much evidence that whoever was here was looking for something besides a TV set and a radio," he added.

Although reports of the letter find had not been published when the apartment was entered, a number of persons knew it had been discovered in Novel's former lodgings.

COPIES HAD BEEN distributed Monday and Tuesday to an independent handwriting analyst, Novel's attorney, Steven Plotkin, and to others whose opinion was sought concerning its authenticity.

The young women, who

asked that their names be withheld, notified New Orleans police of the break-in when they discovered it after returning from work Thursday evening.

Police officers investigated then. When the account of the letter and its importance was printed in the newspapers, they made a direct report to the DA's office.

"We were both pretty upset," one of the girls said. "The lock had been pulled off the door, and the place was a mess."

SHE SAID THERE were

boxes full of Novel's papers in the apartment when she and her roommate first moved in. She said the documents are now in storage.

The "Mr. Weiss" letter draft was found under a plastic drainboard on the sink while the girls were cleaning.

It was given by them to a student at a local university. He, in turn, showed it to a friend of a States-Item reporter. In that way it reached the newspaper.

THE FINDING OF the letter prompted Plotkin, Novel's attorney, to confirm that his client had worked for the United States Central Intelligence Agency here during 1961. The States-Item reported Novel's CIA affiliations a month earlier.

The letter draft was handwritten in pencil on pages from a yellow legal pad. It asked "Mr. Weiss" to help him get away before he was forced to testify about possible "top secret" matters related to an operation named "Double-Chek Corporation of Miami." *END*

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House Asks States to Hasten Extradition of DA Witnesses

The Louisiana House of Representatives has asked three other states to hasten the extraditions of witnesses wanted in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation.

House members yesterday adopted three resolutions urging the governors of Ohio, Texas and Iowa to speed up the return of wanted witnesses in their states.

THE TRIO of persons who Garrison wants to question are 29-year-old Gordon Novel (Ohio); Sergio Arcacha Smith (Texas), and Sandra Moffet McMaines (Iowa).

Novel and Arcacha are charged with complicity in the 1961 burglary of a munitions dump at Houma. Mrs. McMaines is the woman star Garrison witness Perry Russo claimed he took to a party where he overheard a plot to kill the late President.

Novel today, meanwhile, again offered to speak before the Louisiana Legislature if he were granted immunity from arrest and imprisonment and "personal protection" while in the state.

But Rep. Lantz Womack, Franklin Parish, who received the offer by telegram from Novel's attorney, said he planned to take no action to invite the fugitive witnesses. He said he would back up Gov. John J. McKeithen.

Novel is wanted as a material witness by Garrison in his probe into the assassination.

Novel's attorney, Jerry Weiner, wire dfrom Columbus, Ohio that Novel would be willing to take lie detector tests and submit himself to truth serum or hypnosis if his "doubter, denier or accuser, no matter what his office, would do likewise." **END**

5-29-67

Garrison Reiterates Call for Probe of CIA

District Attorney Jim Garrison has announced he will make further arrests later in his Kennedy assassination probe and has reiterated his call for a congressional investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Garrison said yesterday during an appearance on the ABC radio-television program "Issues and Answers" that "We are going to have to defer any other arrests" until later but "there will be other arrests and they will probably be before the trial" of retired businessman Clay L. Shaw.

No date has been set for the 54-year-old Shaw's trial on charges he conspired to kill President John F. Kennedy.

GARRISON, REPEATING much of what he has already made public about his probe, said:

—Kennedy was not killed by Lee Harvey Oswald who the Warren Commission concluded was the lone assassin.

—The President was killed by a group of conspirators made up of Latin Americans opposed to Fidel Castro and of former CIA employes.

—**OSWALD HIMSELF** was not a CIA agent but had "obviously" been an intelligence employe of the government.

—The CIA, although not involved in the plot, "concealed from the Warren Commission, from the American people, from the President and from the world, the fact that its employes, its former employes, were involved in the assassination of the President.

Garrison also said he could link Jack Ruby, the man who shot Oswald to death, to the conspiracy.

HE SAID HIS office has almost been put out of commission by the large number of press inquiries since his probe was revealed.

Asked how he would judge himself if he fails to prove his allegations, Garrison said "the question will not arise, because we have already proved it and we have the evidence." He said, though, that even if, hypothetically, he were to fail, "my evaluation would be: At least I have made an attempt to find out the truth and so far as I know this is the first objective investigation by any official agency in the assassination."

Shaw Trial Guide lines Stiffened by Haggerty

Hints Some Could Be In Contempt

Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. today stiffened his guidelines for actions by persons involved in the trial of Clay L. Shaw and hinted that some persons may be cited for contempt.

At a news conference called by Judge Haggerty to explain his guidelines, the judge was asked if he felt that anyone has been guilty of contempt in his opinion up to today. He replied:

"That's the reason I'm having this press conference today, because I feel that way."

The judge said that any contempt citations would come after the trial of Shaw, charged with criminal conspiracy in the slaying of President John F. Kennedy.

He said that to reveal them sooner would further lessen Shaw's chances of getting a fair trial.

JUDGE HAGGERTY read a prepared statement supplementing previous guidelines issued by him governing dissemination of information by news media, attorneys and others connected with the case. The judge said:

"The court now finds it nec-

essary to supplement the aforesaid orders because of the barrage of claims and counterclaims, charges and countercharges, by many persons who were and are directly affected by such orders.

"The above case allotted to this court is the trial of the state of Louisiana vs. Clay L. Shaw, and specifically charges a violation in the criminal code of a conspiracy to commit murder.

"This court is not trying the Warren Commission report, the FBI, the CIA, the Secret

Service or any other person or agency.

"This court would be less than honest were it not to admit that said agencies may or may not be directly or indirectly related to the trial of Mr. Clay L. Shaw.

"Such being the case, the widespread comments and charges, directly or indirectly, by persons necessarily involved in the future trial of the above entitled case."

District Attorney Jim Garrison has charged that the CIA and other federal agencies in events relating to the assassination of the President in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. He appeared on local television last week and on national TV yesterday making such statements.

"I wish emphatically to state that after the (Shaw) case has been finally concluded, irrespective of the verdict, I shall take appropriate judicial action, if necessary, to cite for contempt those persons who have violated the orders of this court,

including these orders issued today," Judge Haggerty said.

"IN CONNECTION with this specific matter, I feel that it is unnecessary to state that in law a person may not do indirectly that which he is prohibited from doing directly."

The judge declined to elaborate on his statement, saying "it speaks for itself." He did say he would save the contempt citations for after the trial because they could "bring out all sorts of angles which would further endanger" a fair trial.

In his expanded guidelines to the news media and bar, Judge Haggerty cited certain provisions adopted by the state of Louisiana in April, 1964, and concurred in by the state bar association and the various news media, he said.

Among these provisions were:

"For the news media:
"To preserve the individual's rights to a fair trial, news stories of crime should contain only a factual statement of the arrest and attending circumstances.

"The following should be avoided:

"1. Publication of interviews with subpoenaed witnesses after an indictment is returned.

"2. Publication of the criminal record or discreditable acts of the accused after an indictment is returned or during the trial unless made part of the evidence in the court record. The defendant is being tried on the charge for which he is accused and not on his record. (Publication of a crim-

inal record could be grounds for a libel suit.)

"3. Publications of confessions after an indictment or bill of information is returned unless made a part of the evidence in the court record.

"4. Publication of testimony stricken by the court unless reported as having been stricken.

"5. Editorial comment preceding or during trial, tending to influence judge or jury.

"6. The publication of any 'leaks,' statements or conclusions as to the innocence or guilt, implied or expressed, by the police or prosecuting authorities or defense counsel.

"7. Good taste should prevail in the selection, printing, and broadcasting of the news. Morbid or sensational details of criminal behavior should not be exploited."

"For the Bar":

"To preserve the individual's rights to a fair trial in a court of law the following guidelines are prescribed for the bar.

"1. A factual statement of the arrest and circumstances and incidents thereof of a person charged with a crime is permissible, but the following should be avoided:

"A. Statements or conclusions as to the innocence or guilt, implied or expressed, by the prosecuting authorities or defense counsel.

"B. Out-of-court statements by prosecutors or defense attorneys to news media in advance of or during trial, stating what they expect to prove, whom they propose to call as witnesses or public criticism of either judge or jury.

"C. Issuance by the prosecuting authorities, counsel for the defense or any person having official connection with the case of any statements relative to the conduct of the accused, statements, confes-

sions or admissions made by
the accused or other matters
bearing on the issue to be
tried.

"D. Any other statement or
press release to the news
media in which the source of
the statement remains undis-
closed." *EAD*

Novel's Suit Is Continued By Judge Here

5/31/67
Federal District Judge James A. Comiskey today continued indefinitely a technical move taken by an attorney for Gordon Novel, who is suing District Attorney Jim Garrison and others for \$1 million each.

Attorney Steven R. Plotkin, representing Novel, sought to propound certain questions to members of Truth and Consequences, the organization which has been set up to finance Garrison's probe of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Principal defendants in the suit, in addition to Garrison, include the Truth and Consequences organization, Willard E. Robertson, Joseph Rault Jr. and Cecil Shilstone.

THE MOTION TODAY before Judge Comiskey sought an order directing the defendants to answer questions concerning the identity and the amount of money contributed by other members of the Truth and Consequences group.

Judge Comiskey continued the Novel motion after Malcolm W. Monroe claimed that the defendants were not given adequate notice of the motion under federal court rules.

At the same time, Monroe filed a motion asking that the court allow the defendants to take a deposition on June 9 from Novel.

THE DEPOSITION would be taken here before U.S. Commissioner Fritz H. Windhorst.

Monroe told the court that after the deposition is taken, he intends to file a motion asking dismissal of Novel's suit.

Judge Comiskey pointed out that under the federal rules it will not be necessary to obtain an order of court for the serving of the interrogatories after 10 days elapse from the filing of the suit. This period will expire Friday. **END**