

Spurn Kennedy 10-20-67 Death Theory S.T. Of De Gaulle'

PARIS (AP)—Silence and skepticism were the main reactions today to a French journalist's book reporting that President Charles de Gaulle believes police were involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald.

De Gaulle's office refused to comment on the report by Raymond Tournoux that the French president said of the assassination: "The police did the job, or else they pulled the strings or else they let it happen. In any case they were involved."

Police Chief Charles Batchelor of Dallas said: "We are standing on the reports of the investigation by the Warren Commission and will have no comment on the statements attributed to General de Gaulle."

The White House also refused to comment. Asked if De Gaulle had ever told the U.S. government he had such a view of the assassination, White House press secretary George Christian replied: "I never heard of it at all until this moment."

Excerpts from the 700-page book, "The General's Tragedy" (La Tragedie du General), were published by the magazine Paris Match

The Warren Commission said Oswald killed the President and there was no evidence of a conspiracy.

Tournoux, who has access to persons close to De Gaulle, did not present the passage as an interview with De Gaulle and he offered no explanation of the origin of the direct quotes attributed to the President. ml

Court Studies Petition for O'Hara Ouster

The Louisiana Supreme Court is considering a petition calling for Criminal District Court

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Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara's removal from office.

The petition, signed by the New Orleans Bar Association, the Chamber of Commerce of the New Orleans Area, Gov. John J. McKeithen and 45 citizens, was delivered to the high court yesterday by Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion and two assistants, William P. Schuler and John E. Jackson Jr.

THE SUIT against Judge O'Hara, who is on an indefi-

nite leave of absence, charges that he conspired with Zachary A. Strate Jr., a New Orleans builder and convicted felon, to have set aside the federal court convictions of Strate and Teamster Union President James R. Hoffa. Strate was found guilty of six counts of mail fraud and one of conspiracy.

The suit alleges that early in 1967 O'Hara arranged a meeting in Baton Rouge with James H. Gill and Edward G. Partin, a Teamster official, in an effort to get Partin to alter his testimony which was instrumental in convicting Hoffa of jury tampering.

An affidavit presented to Partin to sign, the suit charges, was dictated to Julian Levy, the judge's court reporter, just before the day of the alleged meeting.

AFTER the judge is served with the proceeding, he will have 15 days to plead. When any pleadings are considered, the court will decide whether to hear the case itself or appoint a commissioner which will gather evidence in a regular trial and will put together a record. However, the commissioner would not make any suggestions or conclusions as to the disposal of the case, which would then go to the court for argument and submission. *end*

Novel Rejects Labor Probe Bid

(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — Much sought witness Gordon Novel has refused to testify before the state Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry investigating labor troubles in the Baton Rouge area.

Novel testified at length yesterday before the East Baton Rouge Parish Grand Jury in connection with its probe of organized crime.

Afterwards, East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney Sargent Pitcher said the jury dismissed Novel and he is free to leave the state. It was not known whether he left immediately, but when the labor probers asked Novel to testify, his attorneys told them the witness' 48-hour period of immunity from arrest in Louisiana wouldn't stretch far enough to permit such testimony.

NOVEL also sought by Orleans Parish DA Jim Garrison in his probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, was granted the 48-hour immunity by Gov. John J. McKeithen and Garrison as his condition in return for telling what he knew about organized crime.

Attorneys for Novel and the labor probe commission agreed commission investigators could interview Novel after he leaves the state.

Novel's grace period was to expire some time today. If he were still in the state, he would be liable to arrest on Orleans Parish charges of conspiracy to commit burglary, of being a fugitive witness, and a Terrebonne Parish charge of simple burglary.

THE LABOR probers sought to question Novel at the request of Edward Partin, Baton Rouge Teamster leader, who has figured in the board's investigation.

In a nine-hour session before the jury yesterday, Novel had time to tell all he knew about crime, corruption, Garrison and anything else he deemed pertinent.

However, at a lengthy press

conference afterwards he tossed out a lot of innuendos, ducked specifics, said Clay Shaw was a "patsy," and declared he had been offered a bribe to help free imprisoned Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa.

THE JURY dismissed Novel after listening to him on and off from 10:15 a. m. to 7:30 p. m. yesterday. It is scheduled to resume its work today.

Shaw is the retired New Orleans businessman accused by Garrison of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy.

Novel was brought to the state from Columbus, Ohio, where he took refuge after fleeing the grasp of Garrison. He was brought in by a Baton Rouge sheriff's department plane.

Pitcher said he was not free to comment on what action the jury might take on Novel's testimony.

THE BATON Rouge jury has been studying organized crime, the Hoffa affair and unsolved bombings.

Novel was flanked by five attorneys during the press conference. The five, including Steve Plotkin of New Orleans, and Jerry Weiner of Columbus, met frequently outside the jury room with Novel during the day.

The 29-year-old former New Orleans lounge owner would testify for a while, leave the grand jury room for a brief period, and tell his attorneys what had transpired, and then return to the room.

He left the grand jury building for about 20 minutes during the day to bring material from his room at

a motel near the state capitol. Sandwiches were brought into the jury room for lunch.

NOVEL declared — when asked for specific information on crime and corruption—that an effort had been made by an investigator in New Orleans to get him to provide an affidavit saying Walter Sheridan had used bugging equipment against Hoffa.

Sheridan is a former Justice Department investigator

who became an investigative reporter for the National Broadcasting Co. and helped produce a program critical of Garrison.

Novel said both money and withdrawal of charges in New Orleans against him in New Orleans were offered.

NOVEL, who claims to be a former employe of the Central Intelligence Agency, declined to reveal the source of his income since he left Louisiana. He said he had money at the time.

He also said he, himself, is paying his battery of attorneys, one of whom Garrison insists is being financed by the CIA.

When asked what specific evidence he had to support his charge that Garrison's

Kennedy investigation is a fraud, Novel said he had once discussed with the DA the means of obtaining a confession from David Ferrie, the deceased pilot Garrison says was a key part of the assassination plot.

Novel said that on Feb. 21, Garrison proposed a three-part plan to get Ferrie's "confession."

MUCH OF his information on crime in the state, Novel said, was turned over to Life Magazine before his grand jury testimony.

Most of the information on several tapes, relates to the Garrison probe "and will be made available at the proper time," Novel said.

Novel said he would like to testify at the conspiracy trial of Shaw, now scheduled next February.

"This is the patsy of the century," he said of Shaw. Of the probe, he said "from A to Z it is a fraud." *LMG*

Partin Claim Of Bribe Said 'Utterly False'

10-20-67
S.I.

BATON ROUGE (AP) — A Baton Rouge contractors association official said today a charge that he carried a \$1 million bribe to a Teamsters official is "completely and utterly false."

James H. (Buddy) Gill, manager of the Baton Rouge Industrial Contractors Association, said in a statement that the charge by Baton Rouge Teamsters boss Edward Grady Partin was designed "to mislead and misinform the public."

Partin charged in a federal court motion yesterday that Gill offered him the money in an effort to win a new trial for James Hoffa.

"As usual, Partin's most recent charges are designed to take the spotlight off of Partin's own activities and to place it somewhere, anywhere else," Gill said.

GILL BLAMED Partin for the labor crisis that wracked Baton Rouge last summer.

"Partin is now grasping at straws and lashing out in all directions," Gill said. "He is a man of desperation."

"I am the most recent in a series of persons who supposedly has offered Partin \$1 million or some other amounts of money.

"Only heaven knows who Partin will accuse next. Needless to say, his statement that I offered him anything to do anything is completely and utterly false," Gill's statement went on.

"And every possible legal step will be taken to see that Partin is called to account for his irresponsible statements."

Hoffa, president of the Teamsters Union, was convicted in 1964 of tampering with a jury. Partin, business agent for a Teamsters local here, was the government's principal witness.

THE ALLEGED BRIBE is under investigation by a federal grand jury in New Orleans.

Partin's new motion asked for the recall or modification of U.S. Dist. Judge E. Gordon

West's command that he answer questions at a deposition session in a multi-million dollar anti-trust suit.

The motion said much of last summer's Baton Rouge area labor troubles, which shut down over \$250 million in construction for weeks, were fomented in an effort to discredit him and pressure him into agreeing to change his testimony in the Hoffa case.

ALTEX CONCRETE CO. filed the anti-trust suit against Partin and a number of others, claiming they conspired to put Altex out of business.

Partin claims that Roland Stevens Sr., an Altex executive, and Wallace Heck, a former Altex executive, were in collusion against him and trying to use the newly appointed Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry for their own means.

The commission was set up by a special session of the Legislature, called during a state administration crackdown which succeeded in ending the Baton Rouge strikes and lockouts.

IN HIS COURT motion, Partin also said he has information of a meeting early this year at International Teamsters headquarters in Washington involving five men.

Partin named Frank Fitzsimmons, then acting Teamster president; Criminal Dist. Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara of New Orleans; Allan Dorfman of Chicago; contractor Zachary A. Strate Jr. of New Orleans; and Gill.

Impeachment — proceedings against Judge O'Hara — have been filed in the Louisiana Supreme Court, accusing him of helping Strate in an effort to buy Hoffa a new trial. The judge is on a temporary leave of absence from the bench, pending a decision by the court.