

SECTION B

LOCAL NEWS

The Tampa

METROPOLITAN

TAMPA, FLORIDA, TUESDAY

Thornley Must Go To New Orleans

By THOM WILKERSON  
Tribune Staff Writer

Circuit Court Judge Robert W. Patton yesterday ordered the issuance of a summons to Kerry Wendell Thornley, 29, compelling the Tampa free lance writer to testify before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Feb. 8-9 in the investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

"I feel like I'm going to a mad hatter's tea party,"

quipped Thornley after the 12-minute hearing in Hillsborough County Courthouse.

New Orleans Dist. Atty. James Garrison considers Thornley, 725 S. 51st St., "a material witness" in his probe of Kennedy's death in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963. Thornley served for three months in the same U.S. Marine Corps outfit at El Toro, Calif., with accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

Yesterday's hearing was prompted by a certificate from Orleans Parish Criminal Court Judge Matthew Braniff, which

Some Comment  
By Chairman  
Of Budgets

... "most inequitable, unjust, and confiscatory budgets we've ever approved..."

... "even Pinellas is passing us..."

... finds that land developers are in a bind.

Are Taxes Rising or  
Zooming? Page 2-B

—County Gets Warning—

Mounting Tax  
Load Deplored

By CHARLES HENDRICK  
Tribune staff Writer

Mounting local taxes for government and schools threaten to collapse the economy of Hillsborough County, the County Budget Board warned yesterday.

The warning came in a budget board session called to adopt a resolution which asks that local government offi-

cial and the county legislative delegation meet quickly to draft some plan for shifting the burden of taxes from its present ad valorem (real estate) base.

Board Chairman Paul Dickman, one of the county's large land owners, said the ad valorem tax has long ago outlived its validity as the prime means of supporting government.

He called the several just-approved 1967-68 county government budgets the "most inequitable, unjust and confiscatory budgets we've ever approved."

Dickman was joined by members Richard J. Hottel and Clifton Beasley citing a mounting wave of taxpayer dissatisfaction with tax levels in this county.

Dickman said a recent economic study showed Hillsborough county's growth has slowed to the point that only Taylor and Levy counties have a lower growth rate.

"I have been bragging that we are almost to be the number two county in the state. I



a Tribune

# AN EDITION

DAY, JANUARY 23, 1963

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was forwarded to State Atty. Paul Antinori Jr. by Garrison.

Antinori, acting on the stipulations of the Uniform Extradition of Witnesses Act, petitioned Circuit Court to hold a hearing to allow Thornley a chance to show cause why he shouldn't be ordered to obey Garrison's subpoena.

Thornley, a self-styled "libertarian" whose main American heroes are Thomas Paine and Patrick Henry, waived his right to have a lawyer represent him at the hearing. He spoke clearly and succinctly to the court and later admitted that he wasn't surprised by the judge's order. The summons is expected to be served on him today by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department.

Along with the summons will be a check for \$148.60 to serve as expense money for his trip. Thornley said he probably will stay with friends while in New Orleans.

"I have no intention to attempt to show cause why I should not appear in New Orleans," Thornley told Judge Patton.

Antinori moved for the issuance of the summons after Thornley declined to argue against Garrison's contention he is a material witness.

Judge Patton advised Thornley that contempt of court charges would be lodged against him if he chose to ignore the summons.

"I have every intention of abiding by this summons, your honor," responded Thornley. "Thank you, Mr. Thornley," said Patton.

Thornley was accompanied to the hearing by his wife, Cara, a reading aide at Robert E. Lee School in Tampa.

Thornley, following the hearing, criticized Judge Braniff's certificate, which stated that the writer might have pertinent information concerning Oswald as a result of Thornley's alleged affiliation with Oswald in New Orleans in 1963.

Thornley has insisted that he told the Warren Commission, which was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson and deduced that Oswald was the lone assassin responsible for Kennedy's death, all he knew about Oswald in April 1964. Thornley said he last saw Oswald at El Tero in June 1959.



Thornley, Wife after hearing  
... Tampa writer hopes to clear himself

—Staff Photo by Cattie Sandlin

The hearing began at 4:28 p.m., 32 minutes ahead of schedule, and was concluded at 4:40 p.m.

Thornley said either Max P. Gabreski, Oil City, Pa., attorney, or some other lawyer will be with him for Garrison's queries before the grand jury. He said he probably will travel by bus. His wife, a New Bethlehem, Pa., native, said she might accompany him.

The writer is author of a book, "Oswald," published in 1965 by New Classics House, Chicago. He said he spent the past weekend preparing notes he was considering for presentation to the court to prove he should not be ordered to appear before the grand jury but his "logic was shot full of holes" and he decided to sidestep the matter and offer no resistance.