

IF TAMPAN ARRAIGNED

Levine To Act for Thornley

By TOM RAVUM
Times Staff Writer

Tampa attorney Arnold Levine said today he would represent Kerry Wendell Thornley "if and when" he is arraigned in Louisiana on perjury charges filed by New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

However, the lawyer expressed doubt that Garrison would file a formal extradition request.

"We have reason to believe Garrison is not serious about prosecuting, and only ordered the arrest to flavor his investigation," said Levine.

THE 29-YEAR-OLD Tampa free lance writer, who served in the same Marine Corps outfit with Lee Harvey Oswald, is free on \$1,000 bond (reduced from \$3,000 yesterday by Peace Justice Marion Hendry).

If Garrison does not file an extradition request with the governor of Louisiana, which in turn must be signed by Florida Gov. Claude Kirk, within 30 days, Thornley will be released.

Levine said Thornley will waive extradition if Garrison "actually starts the legal machinery to bring him back to Louisiana."

"Then we'll go and plead not guilty in New Orleans," Levine said.

THE TAMPAN was arrested Thursday by sheriff's deputies acting on the Garrison warrant charging the writer with lying before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Feb. 8 about an alleged association with the accused presidential assassin in New Orleans in 1963.

"Garrison has this fixed scheme of how everything happened and what I say doesn't fit into that scheme, so therefore I have to be lying," Thornley said today at his 726 S. 51 St. home.

"But I have one thing in my favor — I'm innocent — and I want to get that cleared up as fast as possible," Thornley said.

He said he decided not to fight extradition if it is attempted by Garrison "because I don't want to put him in the position of being able to say, 'Well, there's another one who got away by beating extradition.'"

GARRISON **CONTENDS** The Tampan met with Oswald in New Orleans several

months before the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy.

The Warren Commission named Oswald as the lone assassin, but Garrison alleges that Oswald, David Ferrie, Clay Shaw, and Jack Ruby, working on the fringe of the CIA, hatched the assassination plot while in New Orleans.

Thornley, who has published a book on the results of his experience, knew Oswald in El Toro, Calif., in 1959 when they both were in the Marine Corps.

The writer says he was "just an acquaintance — Lee didn't have any close friends."

TAMPA

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THORNLEY
... "I'm innocent!"

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