

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

See SUIT-- Page 9