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NS STATES-ITEM

Garrison Aide Quits to Join Gravel Office

Assistant District Attorney Richard V. Burnes, who has played a major role in the investigation of the Kennedy assassination, has resigned from the DA's staff.

Burnes has joined the law firm of Camille Gravel in Alexandria, Assistant DA James L. Alcock said today.

Alcock said Burnes' resignation had nothing to do with the assassination probe by District Attorney Jim Garrison. Burnes resigned effective March 15.

Reached in Gravel's office today, Burnes refused to make any comment on his resignation.

"Many attorneys join the DA's staff to gain experience, then move on to other jobs," Alcock said. He said the Alexandria position offered Burnes "a much better financial arrangement."

Last year another Garrison aide, William Gurych, left the DA's staff in a disagreement over the prosecution of Clay L. Shaw, who is charged with conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

As recently as last week, Burnes was associated with Alcock in the hearing on a motion to move Shaw's trial outside New Orleans.

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