

Novel

JFK assassination records appeals
The Garrison case and Gordon Novel appeals

Harold Weisberg 8/9/79

Novel, who launched one of the larger propaganda shows against Garrison, who as I told you earlier needed no help in irresponsibilities, was an FBI informer, a PCI.

You should have gathered this from what I was driving at in my earlier appeals.

While in most cases, as you know, I respect the right to hold the identifications of informers secret, what the FBI does with them and their "information" and what they do are among the considerations on the other side. In simplification, after the FBI has eaten its cake it has no right to claim that the cake exists or should exist.

Aside from Novel's activities, which were extensive and extensively reported, and loads of official records of a private nature to his lawyer, the FBI propped his crew all around, including to the White House.

These and other factors make the fact that Novel had been a PCI relevant and of historical importance.

The wrong extent to which the FBI planned to go in withholdings related to Novel is illustrated by what it had marked for withholding in the attached DID Informative Note, 62-109060- attached to 4933. You can see that marked for omission is "He has previously said that," which is followed by "he did not know Lee Harvey Oswald." There is no exemption covering "He has previously said that," is there? (See: 119)

A different reviewer, going over Section 123, did not withhold what that analyst had marked for withholding, on a similar note that begins "Gordon Novel,". What is not withheld here is "is a former potential original informant of the New Orleans Office and." It was marked for withholding. ("SA Regis Kennedy...handled previous contacts with Novel.")

Throughout the withholdings of Novel's name, public a person as he was and the records reflected that he was, activist that he was, the FBI was disclosing unique identifications which left it beyond any doubt that the name withheld was Novel's. One of these that I have not bothered to send you relates to his having "13 questions" for Garrison.

Whatever one thinks of what I regard as Garrison's irresponsibilities they are of historical significance. Whatever the FBI now wants to be thought of its operations against Garrison, guided as detachment from him, it is also of historical significance. So, too, is what the FBI spread around the Government, including to the AG and White House. That Novel was a PCI, especially if the FBI declined to continue him as a CI, thus has considerable importance, particularly in evaluating the FBI and Novel and its unquestioning use of what it got from him.

H.O. Novel files are included in this addition to the earlier appeals.

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 3/16/67

Gordon Novel, described in attached, [redacted] he has previously told us of his involvement with David W. Ferrie [redacted]

He has previously said that he did not know Lee Harvey Oswald and that Oswald was not involved in anti-Castro activities [redacted]

Subsequent to the attached, New Orleans advised that C. W. Johnson, District Director, Immigration and Naturalization Service, New Orleans, was subpoenaed by the defense to produce records concerning Manuel Garcia Gonzalez and Julio Bacedo (phonetic) which would supposedly discredit Perry Russo, who has testified concerning a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. [redacted]

New Orleans also later advised that the presiding judges ruled that Dr. Chetta, mentioned in attached, could testify concerning the use of "truth serum" in hypnotizing Russo.

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Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 3/30/67

Gordon Novel is a former potential criminal informant of the New Orleans Office and has furnished us some information concerning some facets of Garrison's investigation. SA Regis Kennedy of our New Orleans Office has handled previous contacts with Novel.

Novel failed to appear before New Orleans Grand Jury after subpoena issued him. New Orleans District Attorney Garrison has obtained warrant for Novel's arrest. Novel has been travelling around the country and frequently has made press releases on his own indicating Garrison's investigation is a "fraud".

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62-109060

See 123