

Novel Believes Young Is Scapegoat in Probe

Speaks of Action in State from Ohio

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Gordon Novel, sought for questioning in New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe, said Saturday a former aide to Gov. John McKeithen is an obvious scapegoat in a probe of criminal influence on state government.

Novel described Aubrey Young as "one of the finest people I know as a human being," adding, "it looks like he is talking pretty good. Maybe he's trying to pay some people back."

Novel, reached in Columbus, Ohio, said the crime investigation is intermixed with the assassination probe, which he called a Garrison hoax.

He offered to return to Louisiana and testify in the crime probe if given immunity from Garrison, who has tried without success to have Novel extradited.

WON'T HEAR ME

He can give valuable information, Novel said, but "a lot of people down there don't want to hear me talk."

Novel was asked if he supplied Life magazine with information on telephone conversations between Young and Carlos Marcello, New Orleans area rackets figure.

"I would rather not say," Novel said. "Is that a pretty big rumor down there now? The people of Louisiana haven't seen anything yet."

Young, who turned state's evidence which has led to the indictment of one man for bribery, is a former security officer for McKeithen. He has testified two days before the

East Baton Rouge Parish grand jury.

Young bought bugging and debugging equipment from Novel in 1965 for the governor's office. Novel said Young also is the person who gave him a controversial brigadier general's commission on the governor's staff.

SHARK AFTER SHARK

McKeithen has said Young denied giving Novel the commission and the governor has denied having any connection with Novel, a former New Orleans nightspot operator.

Novel said the crime investigation is like "a pool of sharks after each other."

He said he will file suit Friday, Oct. 13, in Chicago for libel, naming Garrison, Truth and Consequences, the group financing the Garrison probe, and Playboy magazine. He said those named probably will have to go to Chicago.

He promised later to expose prominent Baton Rouge and New Orleans persons in what he called a graveyard party, in which a "corpse in a coffin" will be dug up.

Novel said also he will shed light on the selection of the domed stadium site in New Orleans, "who selected the site and why."