

Missing Garrison Witness Turns Up in Washington

Washington, March 25—(UPI)—Gordon Novel, missing witness in New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of an alleged Kennedy assassination conspiracy, popped up in a Washington suburb today and took a lie detector test on his charge that the Garrison investigation was a "fraud."

The operator of the polygraph test, Lloyd Furr, of nearby McLean, Va., said Novel "passed" the lie test. "He showed no deceptions," Furr said.

"Do you honestly believe Garrison's conspiracy prosecution is a fraud," Furr said he asked Novel. "Yes," he said Novel replied.

Novel, a former New Orleans nightclub operator, left New Orleans shortly before a grand jury investigating the alleged assassination plot tried to subpoena him.

Left Note to Reporters

He turned up at a Columbus, Ohio, motel Wednesday, but checked out before newsmen could talk to him. He left them a note saying:

"Gentlemen, due to pressure from New Orleans I had to leave. I will prove my statement in Chicago in short due course."

Novel said the entire investigation was engineered by Garrison for political reasons.

"I don't believe his case and from the methods he's used I think he's a fraud," Novel added.

He then dropped out of sight until he turned up in McLean today.

In New Orleans, Judge Matthew Braniff has issued orders for Novel to post a \$50,000 bond as a material witness or be arrested as a fugitive.

Novel's connection with the Garrison investigation has never been precisely spelled out. He knew the late David Ferrie during the time Garrison charged Ferrie was conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw to kill the late President.

Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as Mr. Kennedy's assassin.

Shaw, who was indicted March 22, is free on \$10,000. He is charged with conspiracy to commit murder, a crime in Louisiana punishable by a prison term of up to 20 years.

The indictment did not charge Shaw with having had a hand in the actual assassination in Dallas, Tex., on Nov. 22, 1963. Nor did it charge that the alleged plot resulted in Mr. Kennedy's death.

Novel has denied that he ever saw Ferrie with either Oswald or Shaw.

Novel Interviewed

Later today Novel was interviewed on a National Broadcasting Company news program. NBC described Novel as an electronics expert and said Garrison once had tried to hire Novel to protect his investigation from possible "bugging" by the FBI or anyone else.

Novel said he turned down an offer of financial assistance from Garrison. Asked why the New Orleans investigator would want him as a material witness, Novel replied:

"He could probably get me if he put enough pressure on me, if he had me in his pocket the way he has a lot of other people to say anything he would want me to say." Novel did not elaborate.