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## CLAIM CIA LINKS IN JFK DEATH PROBE BY GARRISON

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The New Orleans States Item said today in a copyrighted story there is mounting evidence of Central Intelligence Agency links in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe.

"At least one Garrison probe figure intends to use CIA connections as part of his defense," the newspaper said.

The story said "still others linked to the Garrison investigation have been named as acting for the super-secret espionage organization — as informers, as couriers and munitions carriers."

Gordon Novel, the 29-year-old former French Quarter bar owner who is fighting extradition from Ohio to Louisiana,

was named as having the strongest CIA ties.

The newspaper said Novel told intimates "he was a CIA operative and will use this role to battle Garrison's charges."

Novel is free on \$10,000 bond in Columbus, Ohio after his arrest on a Louisiana warrant charging that he helped plan the burglary of an oil-field explosive bunker near Houma in 1941.

Novel has referred to the alleged bunker burglary as "the most patriotic burglary in history." He has told associates, the newspaper said, that the munitions burglary was "a war materials pickup made at the direction of his CIA contact."

In a story appearing in the Dayton Daily News, Novel said: "I think Garrison will expose some CIA operations in Louisiana." He did not elaborate.

The States-Item quoted Novel as saying he was working for the CIA in New Orleans. Part of his job, he contends, was to operate the Evergreen Advertising Agency as a front for CIA communications.

Novel prepared special radio commercials for use in the United States and Canada, the newspaper said, to alert agents to the date of the Bay of Pigs invasion. The key alert codes were "Star Christmas trees, and "holiday trees." Novel's agency placed \$72,000 worth of radio time in 1960, the story said.

Novel said Ferris and several Cubans were involved in the explosives bunker incident.

Novel said the explosives were picked up and consolidated soon after the bunker incident. He said they were eventually taken by boat to Cuba for use in a diversionary operation in connection with the Bay of Pigs invasion.