

DA PROBE FIGURE IN OMAHA CUSTODY

Mrs. McMaines Willing to Return, Indication

By CLARENCE DOUCET

Mrs. Harold McMaines, wanted as a material witness by District Attorney Jim Garrison, was taken into custody late Tuesday afternoon by police in Omaha, Neb.

Douglas County attorney Donald L. Knowles, who filed a fugitive charge against Mrs. McMaines, told The Times-Picayune that the 22-year-old former New Orleans woman was arrested about 4 p. m.

Wednesday morning, Mrs. McMaines will appear in court in Omaha to either waive or resist extradition to New Orleans. A hearing has been set for April 25 in Omaha on the fugitive charge. However, if she waives extradition, there will be no need for the April hearing.

Meantime, bond for Mrs. McMaines on the fugitive charge was set at \$1,000.

APPARENTLY WILLING

Knowles said she apparently is willing to return to New Orleans to answer questions in Garrison's investigation into an alleged conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy.

In other developments Tuesday:

—Guy Johnson stepped down as one of the attorneys for Clay L. Shaw, sole person arrested thus far by Garrison and charged with participating in a conspiracy to murder Kennedy.

—The office of Criminal Sheriff Louis J. Heyd was checking out information received from the Chicago police department concerning the whereabouts of Gordon Novel, another person wanted by Garrison for questioning as a material witness. A warrant for Novel's arrest has been issued.

Meanwhile, Lavon Martens, 3622 Constance, is scheduled to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Wednesday to answer questions concerning the probe.

Martens, Ferrie and a third man, Alvin Beauboef, went

on a motor trip to Texas, leaving New Orleans the afternoon of the day President Kennedy was killed—Nov. 22, 1963. The three were arrested on their return to New Orleans, Nov. 25, 1963. Martens, who was 20 then, was Ferrie's roommate at the time.

Garrison and lawyer-author Mark Lane had lunch together Tuesday, the second day the two have been together. Lane,

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author of the book "Rush to Judgment," a highly critical review of the Warren Report, said he spent "Many hours" with Garrison on Monday and he planned to confer with him on a daily basis for the remainder of the week.

DENIES ATTENDING

The name of Mrs. McMaines was first mentioned in the case during the preliminary hearing for Shaw when Perry Raymond Russo, Garrison's chief witness, said she attended a party at which the alleged assassination plot was hatched.

Russo said he took Sandra Moffett (Mrs. McMaines) to the party in mid September, 1963, at the apartment of David Ferrie, 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy. Ferrie, Shaw, and Lee Harvey Oswald plotted the assassination after the party broke up, according to Russo.

Mrs. McMaines has denied attending the party, adding she did not meet Ferrie until 1965.

In Omaha, she said she was "ready to go to New Orleans any time they want," adding, however, she does not want to return here alone. She said she would like her 48-year-old husband to make the trip with her.

"I've got nothing to hide," she said. Mrs. McMaines said she is willing to take a lie detector test or "anything else."

Russo, during interrogation by the DA's office, was given truth serum as well as put un-

der hypnosis.

Knowles said he was going to contact Garrison's office to determine when the DA wanted Mrs. McMaines brought to New Orleans.

Contacted in Baton Rouge, Russo declined to make any comment about Mrs. McMaines' denial that she attended the party at Ferrie's apartment with him. Russo said he would leave the handling of the case to Garrison.

Garrison's office had attempted to get Mrs. McMaines to return to New Orleans last March 8, having sent two investigators to Omaha. However she declined, and on Monday Garrison had a warrant for her arrest issued here.

THREAT ON DA'S LIFE

In another development, the Federal Bureau of Investigation office in New Orleans confirmed a report that Garrison's life had been threatened. They said a report from one of the FBI offices in Georgia indicated a woman there had threatened the DA.

New Orleans police were notified and Garrison was asked if he wanted protection. Garrison reportedly told police his house was well guarded and he needed no extra protection.

Steven Plotkin, attorney for

Novel, will appear before Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty on Wednesday requesting that the warrant for his client's arrest be thrown out. When the warrant was issued, bond was set at \$50,000.

As an alternative, Plotkin wants Haggerty to reduce Novel's bond "to a reasonable amount." Plotkin says his client, who "disappeared" last week, will return when he is assured he will not be jailed.

Novel's connection with the case has not been made clear.

CLAIMS INFORMATION

Meanwhile, in Bismarck, N. D., a man not connected with the local probe, says an attempt was made on his life because of his own investigation into the Kennedy assassination.

David R. Kroman, one of 17 persons indicted in connection with an insurance firm bankruptcy case, claims he has information on who was the

assassin of Kennedy and will reveal it Friday.

On Monday Kroman was found in his car east of Bismarck in a semi-conscious state. A physician said he had had an epileptic seizure, and Kroman said a car forced his auto off the road and someone pointed a gun at him.

He has been committed to a federal hospital at Springfield, Mo., for 45 days.

In stepping down as an attorney for Shaw, Johnson answered a question that many persons who attended Shaw's preliminary hearing had asked: Was he still one of Shaw's attorneys?

Johnson did not appear in court during the four-day preliminary hearing, nor did he attend a session the day before the hearing began when several defense motions were presented.

'ONE OTHER TIME'

According to Russo's testimony, Shaw, using the name Clem Bertrand, met with Ferrie and Oswald to plot the assassination. He said he saw Shaw in Ferrie's company one time after the assassination.

Shaw, former managing director of International Trade Mart, has denied any part in any conspiracy and maintains he did not know either Ferrie or Oswald. Both Ferrie and Oswald are now dead.

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 29, 1967

Mrs. Kennedy, Children Return from Mexico



MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY is preceded by her two children and the two children of her sister, Princess Lee Radziwill, as they leave plane at New York's Kennedy Airport Tuesday after cutting short their vacation in

—AP WIREPHOTO.
Acapulco, Mexico. In foreground is John-John followed by his sister, Caroline. Behind them are Anthony Radziwill and his sister, Anna Christine.