

No Special Treatment for Novel—Governor

Gordon Novel, wanted as a material witness by District Attorney Jim Garrison, will be treated "just like any other citizen" if he returns to Louisiana, Gov. John J. McKeithen said Friday.

McKeithen has refused to agree to a request by Novel that he be granted police protection and immunity from arrest should he be invited to speak before the Legislature.

The 29-year-old fugitive witness, wanted by Garrison for questioning in connection with his probe of the death of President John F. Kennedy, has been freed on \$10,000 bond in Columbus, Ohio, and is fighting extradition to Louisiana on a charge of conspiring to commit burglary of a Houma munitions bunker.

Novel said he believed a resolution would be introduced before the Legislature in Baton Rouge Friday inviting him to appear before the body. However, the lawmakers adjourned for the weekend Thursday and there was no indication that he would be asked to show.

COPIES SOUGHT

Meanwhile, Garrison asked Friday for copies of a letter allegedly directed to the Central Intelligence Agency by Novel. Novel's New Orleans attorney, Steven Plotkin, claims his client did write the letter which was reportedly found beneath linoleum in Novel's former French Quarter apartment.

Earlier this week, Plotkin said Novel had worked for the CIA here during 1961. The attorney received a copy and transcript of the correspondence earlier this week.

Although Plotkin said Novel wrote the draft and added that "everything . . . as far as Novel is concerned, is actually the truth," his client seemed to contradict the attorney by claiming that the letter was a "last trap" for Garrison.

"Mr. Garrison has finally fallen into the last trap. I thought his fine Cajun gumshoes were going to miss it. Under the rug, ha, ha," Novel

CAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS, LA., SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 27, 1967

Novel Did Fire Shots

said. But actually, it was not investigators who found it.

The letter was received by the New Orleans States-Item through a college professor who got it from a student. A girl friend of the student who is now renting Novel's former apartment located the letter beneath linoleum on the kitchen sink drainboard.

The DA has charged that the CIA is engaging in a "monstrous coverup" of Kennedy's murder, and has duped the Warren Commission into reaching a false conclusion. The commission found that the President was shot by New Orleans native Lee Harvey Oswald who acted alone.

Plotkin, who said Novel was a CIA "intermediary" with anti-Castro Cubans, also claimed that Novel had "little or nothing to do with the Bay of Pigs invasion and certainly had nothing to do with the assassination of President Kennedy."

In the letter found in Novel's apartment, the former local bar owner asks a "Mr. Weiss" to get him out of "this mess" by an unspecified date in March.

Judging by the time sequences the letter describes, it was probably written in late January or early February of this year. The Mr. Weiss referred to is presumably connected with the CIA.

In Detroit, Mich., an attorney for the late Jack Ruby Friday asked the American and Louisiana Bar Associations to consider

disbarring Garrison for "unwarranted and reckless attacks on the Warren Commission Report and its members."

Attorney Sol Dann sent letters to both groups urging them to intervene in all proceedings concerning the assassination of Kennedy, specially Garrison's investigation.

"This request is made to put an end to any further exploitation of this horrible tragedy and prevent a repetition of the carnival proceedings that prevailed before Judge (Joe B.) Brown in Dallas," said Dann.

In reply, Garrison told newsmen here that Dann is "well aware of the total involvement of Jack Ruby with regard to the assassination.

"He is doing his best to block any successful inquiry," Garrison said. "This is very understandable because my objective inquiry into the murder of President Kennedy will necessarily reveal the involvement, not only of individuals associated with the Central Intelligence Agency, but of Jack Ruby himself."

Ruby's brother, Earl Ruby of Detroit, has vigorously challenged Garrison's claims that Jack Ruby was linked to any plot to kill Kennedy.

A further development in the case came Friday in Nashville, Tenn., where a police investigator said he has yet to produce evidence that Novel was wounded there Sunday.

The investigation into a reported shooting stemmed from

a statement by Charles Walker, president of a Nashville radio station, that he, Novel, and the station's news director were sitting in a vehicle in front of the station when the car was riddled with gunfire.

Nashville police said they had been unable to discuss the incident with Novel since then.