

Kennedy Case Figure Given Mental Test

New 'Investigator' Is a Defendant In Fraud Trial

Bismarck, N. D., March 28—(UPI)—An attorney claiming to have documents proving President Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy has been committed to a mental institution for tests after he testified of alleged harassment because of his investigation into the assassination.

David R. Kroman, 43, is one of 17 defendants in a \$3 million insurance fraud. The case is not related to the Kennedy assassination.

Kroman told a U. S. district court judge he was forced off a highway yesterday as he drove here with documents that "tend to prove or in some cases do prove that (Lee Harvey) Oswald did not assassinate Kennedy and that other persons did."

Mistrial Declared

Judge Edward Devitt, who is hearing the case, promptly declared a mistrial of Kroman's portion of the insurance trial and ordered the defendant committed to the federal penal hospital at Springfield, Mo., for 45 days for mental examination.

"There is reasonable cause to believe that Kroman may be insane or otherwise so mentally incompetent that he is unable to assist in his own defense," Devitt said.

Kroman, on the witness stand

yesterday, said that while he was enroute from Minneapolis in a rented car, two other cars followed him. As he neared Bismarck, Kroman said, one car drew abreast of his and the occupant pointed a pistol.

"I would either be shot or I would go off the road. I went off the road," Kroman said.

State police found Kroman partly conscious, a loaded shotgun across his knees, at 4 A. M. Police said Kroman alternately opened and closed his eyes, indicating the defendant was not fully conscious.

Seizure Reported

Kroman was taken to a local hospital where a doctor said he had suffered an apparent epileptic seizure.

In a bedside news conference Kroman said a North Dakota highway patrolman salvaged documents he had amassed in more than three years of investigating, prompted when he heard "a drunken Cuban babbling" in a Miami bar. He said his inquiry took him to Dallas, Key West, Las Vegas and New Orleans.

Kroman told Devitt he had been attacked as recently as March 18, that papers were taken from him in a Tennessee motel in January, 1964, and that on other occasions assailants tried to wrest papers from him.