

Extradition Moves Are Made

Baton Rouge DA Seeking
Smith, Novel

By JACK OWENS

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—

The district attorney here Monday made first formal moves toward extradition of Dalton Smith from Denton, Tex., where he surrendered on a grand jury

indictment for public bribery.

Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher also circulated a document intended to give Gordon Novel additional assurance that he will not be arrested in the New Orleans Kennedy assassination probe if he comes here to give what he calls sensational testimony about racketeering.

"If necessary, I will give him a personal escort," Pitcher said of Novel.

The former New Orleans barkeeper has found refuge in Columbus, Ohio. Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of New Orleans has sought without success to question him in his Kennedy assassination probe.

Pitcher advised the district attorney at Denton that he expected extradition request papers for Smith to be signed later this week by Gov. John McKeithen.

SMITH INDICTED

Smith was indicted by the East Baton Rouge Parish Grand Jury in its probe into published claims that racketeers exercise influence over state government.

He was accused of offering Aubrey Young, former aide to McKeithen, \$25,000 to influence him in his post, an offer which authorities said was part of an effort to buy freedom for former Teamster Union President James Hoffa. The former Teamster boss was imprisoned for jury tampering.

A man who said he was Smith turned himself in to authorities at Denton, and was released on \$1,500 fugitive bond. His attorneys have offered to produce him whenever a court hearing is set on his extradition.

Smith is the only person so far indicted by the grand jury, which has recessed its probe until Wednesday.

Young has said he received telephone calls from Carlos Marcello, New Orleans area racketeer figure, in McKeithen's office.

He has said he arranged for Smith a meeting with Edward Grady Partin, local Teamster official who claims he was offered \$1 million to change his testimony so Hoffa could be freed.

And Young has said he once engaged Novel to install electronic debugging equipment in

McKeithen's office, where he served as McKeithen's security officer.

TRIP TAKEN

Pitcher has been working for more than a week to get Novel back here to testify. He took a trip to Chicago, and he has contacted Novel's attorney several times to make arrangements that will satisfy him.

Already, the district attorney has gotten letters from the governor, Garrison and other prosecutors assuring that Novel will be allowed to tell what he knows to the grand jury here without being jailed on other charges.

Pitcher cited a reciprocal law effective in both Ohio and Louisiana that guarantees immunity from arrest for such grand jury witnesses brought in from other states.

Still, this apparently was not enough to satisfy Novel or his attorney. He asked for sworn affidavits from all concerned.

Pitcher agreed to provide a "round robin" affidavit. He began circulating such an affidavit to McKeithen and the several district attorneys involved for signatures. He expects to hand it to Novel's attorney within the week.

Pitcher also made available to Novel the official parish airplane for transportation into East Baton Rouge Parish and back to Ohio without setting down in any other jurisdiction, along with personal guards from his office.

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