

Mention of a Grudge

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# Star 'Plot' Witness Challenged

NEW ORLEANS, March 24 (UPI) — The latest figure thrust into Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination investigation maintains that he never heard the name Lee Harvey Oswald until Nov. 22, 1963.

Layton Martens, 24, a former roommate of one of the alleged plotters against President Kennedy, openly challenges statements made by Mr. Garrison's star witness, Peter Russo. Mr. Russo, 23, Baton Rouge, La., insurance salesman, testified at the preliminary hearing that he heard Clay Shaw, the late David W. Ferrie, and Oswald plot to kill Mr. Kennedy. Mr. Shaw was subsequently indicted for conspiracy.

But Mr. Martens, commenting in a taped TV interview released last night after he was subpoenaed to appear before the Orleans Parish grand jury next week, said he shared an apartment with Ferrie and he had never heard of Oswald until the assassination.

It was this same apartment in which Mr. Russo allegedly

heard the plotters. Mr. Russo had testified he did not know Mr. Martens.

But in the TV interview, taped two weeks ago by WDSU-TV, Mr. Martens said he knew Mr. Russo and that the latter had a personal grudge against Mr. Ferrie.

Records show that Mr. Martens, Alvin Roland Beaubout and Mr. Ferrie were ar-

rested a Mr. Ferrie's apartment two days after the assassination.

All three were held briefly under investigation of subversive activities by the FBI and Secret Service, according to the records.

In other developments Thursday:

• Gordon Novel, who left town before a subpoena could be served on him, was ordered to

return to New Orleans at once and post a \$50,000 bond.

• Donald Dooty whom Mr. Garrison had subpoenaed to appear today for questioning showed up at the D. A.'s office a day early.

Mr. Dooty, 35, was questioned in Mr. Garrison's office for 2½ hours. He departed unobserved. Authorities are not sure whether Mr. Dooty would show up today as his subpoena asked.



DONALD DOOTY