

Martens Indicted on Perjury Count

Testimony About Novel,
Arcacha Smith Cited

T.P. 4/11/67
Layton Patrick Martens, former roommate of the late David Ferrie, was indicted for perjury Wednesday in connection with testimony about Gordon Novel and Sergio Arcacha Smith, two figures in District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Martens testified before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury on March 29 in connection with the district attorney's investigation of an alleged presidential assassination conspiracy.

His indictment Wednesday afternoon by that body cited specific answers to questions by Garrison in which, it was charged, Martens perjured himself.

The questions concerned Novel and Arcacha Smith, who have been linked with Ferrie in an affidavit charging that they



LAYTON PATRICK MARTENS
Indicted for perjury.

conspired with Ferrie in August of 1961 to burglarize a munitions bunker in Houma, La. Novel was also pegged by the district attorney's office previously as an important material witness in the investigation.

The indictment said that Martens appeared before the jury as a witness and "committed perjury by testifying as follows:

By Jim Garrison, district attorney—

Question: How often — how

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MARTENS INDICTED ON PERJURY

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well do you know Gordon Novel?

Answer: I don't recall ever hearing of or meeting Gordon Novel.

Question: Are you telling me that even when the boxes were being removed from the bunker you did not know the



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
RICHARD TOWNLEY

purpose of the trip?

Answer: No, as best as I can remember I was there. Yes, I do remember being there. The purpose of the trip was not revealed to me.

Question: You do not remember Sergio Arcacha Smith being on the trip?

Answer: No, I didn't."

During Wednesday's grand jury session, Rancier Blaise Ehlinger, 28, 103 Homestead ave., Metairie, and two television newsmen testified.

NO INKLING GIVEN

There was no inkling of why Richard Townley, of WDSU-TV, and Bill Elder, WWL-TV, were subpoenaed to testify.

Ehlinger, who said he knew Novel, was appearing "pursuant to the request of the district attorney," according to attorney Steven R. Plotkin, who also represents Novel.

When a newsman asked whether the request had come



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
BILL ELDER

from Garrison or from one of his assistants, Ehlinger loudly replied "both," as he and Plot-

kin left the criminal courts 'NOVEL IN COLUMBUS' Accompanying them was Jer-



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
RANNY EHLINGER

ry Weiner, Columbus, Ohio, attorney who has represented Novel since his arrest there Saturday. Weiner said that Novel was still in Columbus, despite rumors that he was in New Orleans.

Police records here show that Ehlinger was arrested June 12, 1959, in the 800 block of Gravier, as a fugitive from Baton Rouge on an auto theft charge. The record said that Ehlinger was to be held for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and that he was returned to authorities.

Assistant District Attorney Alvin V. Oser moved that bond for Martens be set at \$2,500 and that an at-large capias be issued for Martens' arrest. Judge Bernard J. Bagert granted the motion.

Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. said that Martens' attorney, Milton Brener, told him that Martens would appear at 9 a. m. Thursday to post bond.