

CHARGE AGAINST MARTENS VOIDED

T.P. 7-18-68
Attempted Murder Count
Refused by DA

A charge of attempted murder against 25-year-old Layton P. Martens, a figure in District Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy death probe, has been refused by Garrison's office.

Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock expressed the opinion that Martens acted in self defense when he stabbed another man, Darryl Gertenschloger, 29, 728 Dumaine, Apt. 401, on June 17.

The stabbing took place in Martens' apartment at 1015 Bourbon, and Martens was booked with attempted murder.

Witnesses told police Gertenschloger abused 21-year-old Laurel Ecke, whose address was the same as Gertenschloger's at the time, and hit Martens at least twice.

Police said Martens armed himself with a knife when Gertenschloger rushed him.

Martens was a former roommate of David W. Ferrie, accused by Garrison of being a conspirator in the death of President Kennedy.

Ferrie died five days after Garrison's investigation was made public last year.

Martens was later indicted by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury on a charge of perjury in connection with testimony involving two other probe figures, Gordon Novel and Sergio Archacha Smith.

Martens has not been brought to trial on the perjury charge.