

Hanna

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The Central Intelligence Agency is linked to the 1961 burglary of a Louisiana oil ^Ffield explosives bunker, the New Orleans States-Item quoted a key witness in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe as saying Tuesday.

Garrison has charged three men—Gordon Novel, Sergio Arcacha Smith and ~~Barisak~~ the late David W. Ferris—with conspiring to commit the burglary.

In a story bearing the copyright of the States-Item and the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News, the newspaper said Novel, 29, told friends the burglary was a war materials pickup for the CIA.

Novel was quoted as saying the bunker was a staging point for munitions destined for the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

Novel, who is wanted in New Orleans as a material witness in the Kennedy probe, is fighting extradition from Columbus, Ohio. The States-Item said Novel, an electronics expert and former French Quarter bar operator, has told acquaintances that "he was a CIA operative and will use this role to battle Garrison's charges."

(In Columbus, Novel said that ^{the} statements that I worked for the CIA are absolutely incorrect. The events ^{of} of 1961, the Bay of Pigs invasion, are none of anybody's business, including Mr. Garrison's."

(Garrison charged that Novel ^{conspired} conspired with Arcacha, a former Cuban exile leader here who now lives in Dallas, and with Ferrie to burglarize a bunker near Houma, La.

(Ferrie died five days after news of Garrison's Kennedy death probe became public. The district attorney described him as a central ~~the~~ figure in the investigation. Garrison contends a conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy was hatched in Ferrie's apartment in September, 1963.

~~jl-redo 619-1055pcs~~