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NEW ORLEANS AP - The

New Orleans States Item said today in a copyrighted story there is mounting evidence of Central Intelligence Agency links in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe.

"At least one Garrison probe figure intends to use CIA connections as part of his defense," the newspaper said.

The story said "still others linked to the Garrison investigation have been named as acting for the supersecret espionage organization - as informers, as couriers and munitions carriers."

Gordon Novel, the 29-year-old former French Quarter bar owner who is fighting extradition from Ohio to Louisiana, was named as having the strongest CIA ties.

The newspaper said Novel told intimates "he was a CIA operative and will use this role

to salute Garrison's charges."

Novel is free on \$10,000 bond in Columbus, Ohio after his arrest on a Louisiana warrant charging that he helped plan the burglary of an oil-field explosive bunker near Houma in 1941.

Novel has referred to the alleged bunker burglary as "the most patriotic burglary in history." He has told associates, the newspaper said, that the munitions burglary was "a war materials pickup made at the direction of his CIA contact."

In a story appearing in the Dayton Daily News, Novel said: "I think Garrison will expose some CIA operations in Louisiana." He did not elaborate.

The States-Item quoted Novel as saying he was working for the CIA in New Orleans. Part of his job, he contends, was to operate the Evergreen Advertising Agency as a front for CIA communications.

Novel prepared special radio commercials for use in the United States and Canada, the newspaper said, to alert agents to the date of the Bay of Pigs invasion. The key alert codes were

... ..
"Star Christmas trees, and
"holiday trees". Novel's agency
placed \$72,000 worth of radio
time in 1960, the story said.

Novel said Ferris and several
Cubans were involved in the
explosives bunker incident.

Novel said the explosives
were picked up and consolidated
soon after the bunker incident.
He said they were eventually
taken by boat to Cuba for use in
a diversionary operation in con-
nection with the Bay of Pigs
invasion.

Garrison's charges states the
bunker incident took place Aug.
1, 1961 - three months after the
Cuban invasion.

Houma police say records of
the burglary are missing.

novel made his statements to
the Dayton Daily News and the
States-Item. In Ohio, he has
repeatedly branded Garrison's
probe a "fraud."

Novel made his statements to

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NEW ORLEANS -CIA probe

ISI add: missing.

deleting last graf: "Novel -

Fraud":

Steve Plotkin, Novel's New Or-

leans attorney, said he would

"neither deny or confirm" "No-

vel's statements about the case.

The States-Item story related
the following:

Novel said he prepared the
radio announcements detailing
dates of the Bay of Pigs inva-
sion through funds funneled to
him from the CIA.

On the day the Houma explo-
sives were picked up, Novel
said, he was called by his CIA
contact and told to join a group
which was ordered to transport
munitions from the bunker to
New Orleans. The key to the
bunker was provided, Novel
said.

The bunker was on the prop-
erty of Schlumberger Well Serv-
ices Co. of Houston. Company
officials said they knew nothing
of CIA operations. Their bunker

... operations. Their bunker stored oil field service equipment and certain low yield explosives. The company said it has no records of the burglary incident.

Plotkin said he made a trip to Houma but was unable to get the date of the alleged burglary. He had no comment on Novel's statements.

Novel lives in a rent - free apartment in Columbus and drives a used car with dealers' tags. He has submitted to a series of lie detector, truth serum and psychological tests to support his statements about the case.

In New Orleans, Novel once headed an electronics surveillance company.

185

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NEW ORLEANS, Garrison-
Novel, 181, insert after 6th
graph: 1941.

In Columbus, Jerry Weiner,
attorney for Novel, told of the
newspaper story and speaking
for Novel, said of the CIA link
report: "It's utterly ridiculous.
Novel is not now and has never
been a CIA agent."

Novel has 7th graf.

Novel