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Meanwhile, an attorney for Gordon Novel today took action in U.S. District Court to block the taking of his client's testimony here in connection with his multimillion-dollar damage suit against Garrison and members of Truth and Consequences.

Steven R. Plotkin, attorney for the 29-year-old fugitive witness, asked Federal Dist. Judge James A. Coniskey to quash a motion by Garrison's lawyer seeking to take Novel's deposition in New Orleans Friday.

GARRISON'S attorney, Malcolm W. Monroe, gave notice last week of his intention to take the deposition from Novel.

As an alternate, Plotkin asked the federal court to order that the deposition be taken in Columbus, Ohio, where Novel is fighting extradition, or at some other designated place.

If Novel is forced to appear in New Orleans, he would be subject to arrest and jailing on criminal charges as well as a material witness in Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation, Plotkin declared.

Plotkin contends Novel is now under the jurisdiction of the courts of Ohio in connection with extradition proceedings and cannot receive permission to leave that juris-

diction.

Novel's lawyer also claimed it would be burdensome and expensive for him to return here when the defendants in the suit can file written interrogatories in the case.

NOVEL'S final alternative request is that if he is forced to return to New Orleans, he be granted immunity from arrest by the state.

Garrison has said Novel is an important witness in his investigation of Kennedy's assassination. He has filed a material witness warrant, seeking the onetime bar owner's return.

Novel was arrested April 1 at Gahanna, a suburb of Columbus, under a Garrison warrant charging he conspired to burglarize a munitions dump at Houma in 1961. He is free on \$10,000 bond.

Last week he filed suit against Garrison and the private organization which is helping the DA finance his Kennedy investigation.

The suit seeks \$10 million from Garrison and \$1 million each from the 50 businessmen who comprise the Truth and Consequences organization.

Garrison's lawyer countered by asking the federal court to order Novel here for questioning.