

## Novel Reportedly Ready to Return, Testify Here

T.P. — 8/2/67  
Bond Reduced on Three  
Garrison Charges

Fugitive witness Gordon Novel was reported Tuesday to be ready to return to New Orleans to testify before the Orleans Parish grand jury in District Attorney Jim Garrison's presidential assassination probe.

Senior Criminal District Court Judge Bernard J. Bagert Tuesday ordered bond reductions on three Garrison charges against Novel, and said that Novel's attorney indicated that he will return to face the charges and testify before the grand jury.

One of the charges was of conspiracy to commit simple burglary of a munitions bunker near Houma, La., in August of 1961.

Two theft charges involved what the district attorney's office said was Novel's failure to pay outstanding bills owed to a local printing firm and commercial artist.

Judge Bagert lowered the bonds from a total of \$10,000 to a total of \$5,500, and specified that Novel be released on his own recognizance.

The first charge filed against Novel after his disappearance from New Orleans, that of a material witness, will be dropped by the district attorney's office if Novel returns, Judge Bagert said.

Steven Plotkin was quoted by Judge Bagert as saying his client would post the bonds provided that the bond reductions were granted, and that he would also appear before the grand jury.

Novel, who has since admitted serving as an "intermediary" for the Central Intelligence Agency before the Bay of Pigs invasion, left New Orleans in March, while, the district attorney's office claims, under subpoena to appear before the jury.

All attempts by Louisiana to extradite him from Ohio on the four charges were defeated.