

T-P

3, MARCH 9, 1968

## NOVEL WINNER IN NEW RULING

### Order for Return to Or- leans Voided

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—The 10th District (Franklin County) Court of Appeals Friday reversed Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Henry Holden and ruled that Gordon Novel does not have to return to New Orleans for a grand jury appearance in the Kennedy assassination probe.

The decision came after a hearing in the court, part of Novel's long fight with New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who has been conducting an investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Judge Holden huled earlier in the week that Novel would have to honor a subpoena from New Orleans and return there for appearance before the grand jury. He was then released under \$1 bond pending hearing of his appeal.

The appeals court gave an oral ruling Friday and said a written decision will be issued later. But, in effect, the court said immunity from arrest offered Novel by Garrison if he would return does not continue once he is back in Louisiana and faced with any new charge.

Novel has consistently called Garrison's investigation a fraud and claims he knows nothing of Kennedy's assassination.

His attorneys brushed aside Garrison's immunity offer and maintained as the court held Friday that it would have no effect once Novel returns to New Orleans and new charges are filed.

Novel's wife, Abby, a former Playboy Club bunny, filed suit for divorce against Novel earlier in the week, charging gross neglect of duty. They were married in Tennessee last Dec. 4. Novel is a former New Orleans night club operator.