

P-9 4/20/68

Tests Indicate Novel Tells Truth--Expert

(Special to the States-Item)
COLUMBUS, Ohio — A psychologist here today said mental tests indicate material witness Gordon Novel has told the truth about the New Orleans investigation in-

to President Kennedy's assassination.

Dr. Willis Driscoll said the 29-year-old New Orleans electronics expert showed no psychosis and his mental stability level cast no doubt on

the validity of two lie tests taken in the last month.

The tests were given to back up Novel's story that the JFK investigation by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison is a "fraud" and was started to build a political reputation for the prosecutor.

Meanwhile, the office of Gov. John A. Rhodes said it is returning Novel's Louisiana extradition papers because of "certain technicalities which do not comply with the law."

John McElroy, administrative assistant to Gov. Rhodes, said the papers were being sent back with the request that the defects be corrected. He did not elaborate.

GARRISON CHARGES the assassination was plotted in New Orleans two months before the President was shot in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Jerry Weiner, Columbus attorney for Novel, said results of the two early lie tests and a third will be released Monday. The third test is scheduled tomorrow.

The lie tests reportedly center on questions surrounding Novel's work as an anti-surveillance chief with the prosecutor's office, antiwire-tap work done for the Louisiana governor, and the JFK

See PROBE— Page 4

Probe--

Continued from Front Page
Investigation

"I'M SATISFIED after the mental tests that he is in touch with reality and able to speak with validity under the sodium amytol (truth serum)," Dr. Driscoll said.

The psychologist examined Novel Tuesday, but did not announce findings until today.

Novel underwent a lie detector test at McLean, Va., March 25. He was interviewed under sodium amytol by psychiatrists and Dr. Driscoll here April 10.

Tomorrow's questions will be given with sodium amytol and a different team of doctors.

WEINER SAID after the first amytol test he was confident Novel was telling the truth.

"We ordered the third test as added evidence," he said.

Meanwhile, Gov. James A. Rhodes has made no move to rule on an extradition request from Louisiana. Garrison through McKeithen has asked Ohio to return Novel to face a charge of conspiring to commit burglary, and to answer questions about the assassination.

The burglary charge stems from disappearance of military ordnance from a Houma, La., munitions bunker in 1961.

NOVEL ALSO faces two other charges. They involve outstanding debts claimed by a commercial artist and a printing plant.

He denies the charges. Rhodes' office is expected to take up the extradition question this weekend and announce preliminary action next week.

Weiner is scheduled to ask for an executive hearing before Rhodes. But a governor's aide said such hearings are rare.