

NOVEL'S FORMER APT. RANSACKED

Burglary Occurred Before Letter Published

An apartment where Gordon Novel, a figure in District Attorney Jim Garrison's assassination probe lived, was burglarized and ransacked.

The two women who rented the Vieux Carré apartment after Novel fled the city in March told the Daily Item Saturday that they had been awakened Thursday night by someone talking in the upstairs apartment most of the day.

The break-in occurred before the finding of one of Novel's letters was publicized Thursday afternoon. The letter asks a Mr. Weiss to get Novel "out of this mess," and made references to top secret information and activities of the Central Intelligence Agency. Novel claims the letter was a trap he set for the DA.

Garrison wants to question Novel, but Novel has been fighting extradition to Louisiana from Ohio.

The women living in Novel's former apartment said it was a mess after the intruder apparently searched cabinets, dresser drawers, personal papers and clothes belonging to them.

A television set and a radio were stolen, but Asst. District Attorney Andrew Schiambra said he believes the theft was "a cover."

"I don't believe there is any doubt that this entry and

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IG, MAY 28, 1967

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search was directly connected with the finding of Novel's letter," he said. "There is too much evidence that whoever was here was looking for something besides a TV set

and a radio."

Although a report of the finding of the letter was not published when the apartment was entered, a number of persons knew it had been discovered.

Copies were distributed Monday and Tuesday to a handwriting analyst, Novel's attorney, and to others whose opinions were sought.

The young women, asking

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that their names be withheld, contacted police after they discovered the break-in, and police made a direct report to the DA.

One of the two said that, when she and her roommate moved into Novel's former apartment, there were boxes full of Novel's papers. She said they are now in storage.