

# Police Say Novel May Go to Court

By ROBERT HORAN  
Of The Dispatch Staff

Gahanna police said Monday Gordon Novel, 29, may have to appear in Columbus Municipal Court on two new warrants from Louisiana charging "relative to theft."

Police Sgt. Robert Kelley of the Gahanna police said the warrants were filed by authorities in Orleans Parish, La. He said there was no specification on the warrants other than the words, "relative to theft."

NOVEL IS NOW free under \$10,000 bond pending a hearing on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He is wanted in New Orleans for questioning in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination investigation.

His attorney, Jerry Weiner, said Novel will have to appear in municipal court on the two theft warrants, but that he hoped Novel will be released on his own recognizance, since he is already under cash bond.

Executive Assistant Dist. Atty. Jim Alcock in New Orleans told The Dispatch the warrants were for theft from the Franklin Printing Co. and Albert Bellvue, a commercial artist, and totaled about \$3400.

Weiner said the two were "strictly a civil matter," that the money concerns debts Novel incurred in his electronics firm.

Novel, a controversial, glib-talking individual, was arrested in Gahanna April 1 on a fugitive from justice warrant charging conspiracy to commit burglary.

THAT CHARGE, ALONG with the warrants "relative to theft," was filed by Garrison.

Novel has repeatedly labeled Garrison a "phony" and called Garrison's investigation a "political, police state inquisition."

Meanwhile, Gerald Collins, an administrative assistant of Governor Rhodes, said extradition papers to return Novel to Louisiana on the initial charge still have not been received from New Orleans.

HE SAID he understood Louisiana Gov. John McKeithen had filed the necessary papers.

"As I said several days last week, 'I expected them this morning.' Maybe they will be in the afternoon mail."

Weiner said he was told McKeithen's office placed the extradition papers in the mail Monday and that they should be in Columbus Tuesday.

New Orleans officials reported last Friday the papers had been held up by violent rain storms between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

COLLINS WOULDN'T commit himself whether Novel will be extradited, saying, "A lot depends on what we get in those papers."

Concerning a charge of conspiracy to commit a robbery at Houma, La., Collins said, "I think we'd have to take a pretty close look at that."

"What is conspiracy? Under their (Louisiana) definition, it could be two fellows sitting in a backroom drinking beer. There must be some overt act."

Concerning the charge Novel is wanted as a witness, Collins said "That's no crime... that's no basis for extradition."

He said "The question is whether this individual is charged with a definable crime."