

6-1-67

# Novel Blocked on DA Backers

## Not Allowed to Seek Names in Suit

A technical motion filed in connection with the \$50 million damage suit brought by Gordon Novel against District Attorney Jim Garrison and others was postponed indefinitely Wednesday by Federal District Judge James A. Comiskey.

Novel's attorney, Steven A. Plotkin, sought an order of court allowing him to propound certain questions to Garrison and other defendants.

The questions which Plotkin wishes to ask concern the names of members of Truth and

Consequences, Inc., the organization of businessmen which was formed to defray expenses of Garrison's probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and the amount of money they have contributed.

### OTHER DEFENDANTS

Defendants in Novel's suit besides Garrison include the Truth and Consequences organization, Willard Robertson, Joseph Rault Jr., Cecil Shilstone and "John Does" who are sued as individual members of Truth and Consequences.

Novel claims in the suit that he has been defamed by Garrison's charges in the probe case in which Novel has been term-

ed a major witness.

Judge Comiskey postponed the motion on the interrogatories after Malcolm W. Monroe, attorney for the defendants in the suit claimed that service of the motion had not been made timely in accordance with the federal court rules.

Monroe also filed a motion seeking an order allowing him to take a deposition from Novel on June 9 before U. S. Commissioner Fritz H. Windhorst.

Monroe said that after the deposition is taken he will move the court to dismiss the Novel suit for damages.

In announcing his ruling on

the motion to serve the interrogatories, Judge Comiskey noted that under the federal rules an order of court is not necessary for such action after 10 days following the filing of the suit. That period will expire Friday.

Novel is now free on a \$10,000 bond in Columbus, Ohio, where he was arrested April 1 on a warrant issued by Garrison's office charging him with conspiring to burglarize a munitions bunker at Houma.

### CALCUTTA ACCIDENT RATE IS IMPROVED

CALCUTTA, India (AP) — The accident rate is falling in the narrow, crowded streets of this Indian city. There were 17,135 traffic accidents involving 237 deaths last year, compared with 17,504 accidents and 257 deaths in 1965.