

S-2
4-22-67

NEW ORLEANS

Ohio's Return Of Extradition Papers Puzzle

An aide to Gov. John J. McKeithen says he cannot imagine what technicalities have prompted the return of fugitive witness Gordon Novel's extradition papers.

Novel is wanted in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation. Gov. McKeithen asked for his extradition from Ohio on charges Novel conspired to burglarize a munitions bunker at Houma in 1961.

Ohio Gov. James A. Rhodes' office announced yesterday the papers are being returned to correct "certain technicalities which do not comply with the law."

At Baton Rouge, William Redmann, executive counsel to Gov. McKeithen, said he does not know what technicalities the Ohio officials are referring to.

He said the extradition request includes documents from the New Orleans' district attorney's office and supporting documents as well as the governor's extradition requisition.

Novel, free on \$10,000 bond, is charged with burglary of the explosives dump by authorities at Houma.