

Col. 15, 17, 44-67

Whereabouts Of Extradition Papers Unknown

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Those long-awaited extradition papers concerning Gordon Novel apparently are fighting their way through a driving rain storm somewhere between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

Novel, 29, former New Orleans night club owner and electronic eavesdropping expert, is wanted as a witness in New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe.

GARRISON charged him with conspiracy to commit simple burglary. Novel was arrested April 1, in Gahanna and is living in Columbus, free on \$10,000 bond.

The official extradition request has never been received by Governor Rhodes. Novel has vowed to fight extradition if and when it is filed.

Friday morning, William V. Redmann, legal assistant to Louisiana Gov. John McKeithen, said Garrison has not yet asked the governor to file the official documents.

"I UNDERSTAND Mr. Garrison has shipped them (the papers) here (Baton Rouge)," Redmann explained. "But, they could have been delayed because of a rain storm we're experiencing this morning."

Redmann added that the papers could be somewhere else in the Louisiana Statehouse, such as the secretary of state's office or the attorney general's office.

Garrison's executive assistant, Alvin Oser, confirmed by telephone that the extradition papers were completed and sent on to Baton Rouge Thursday.

"THEY SHOULD be on the governor's desk—our governor—today (Friday)," he added.

When asked why McKeithen made a personal telephonic request for expedited extradition last Monday night, Redmann explained that the governor was "irked" by some of Novel's claims.

In a press conference last week, Novel charged he was McKeithen's "chief confidant" during 1965-66. Novel said he electronically "bugged" other state officials for McKeithen.