

PROBE INVOLVES EXILES' LEADER

Novel Gives View Before Facing Grand Jury

NO T-C 3/17/67
Dean A. Andrews Jr., an assistant Jefferson Parish district attorney, was indicted for late perjury late Thursday afternoon by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury reported the indictment to Criminal District Court Judge Thomas M. Brahney Jr. who set bond for Andrews at \$1,000. The indictment was in connection with Andrews' testimony before the jury in connection with District Attorney Jim Garrison's presidential assassination investigation.

The owner of the Jamalcan Village Bar at 800 N. Rampart said Thursday before entering the Orleans Parish Grand Jury room upon summons that, District Attorney Jim Garrison wanted to question him about 1961 events involving Cuban exile leader Sergio Arcacha Smith.

Gordon Nove, 29, accompanied by his attorneys, Steve Plotkin and Eddie L. Sapir,

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entered the Criminal Courts building shortly after the grand jury returned from lunch but did not go before the body immediately.

Novel said, "I think Mr. Garrison wants to know something about activities during 1961 which are related to Mr. Sergio Arcacha Smith."

Arcacha lived in New Orleans during 1961 and was leader of an anti-Castro Cuban organization known as the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front. He reportedly was training men here to participate in an invasion of Cuba.

MOVED TO HOUSTON

Arcacha moved to Houston in 1962 and was living there at the time of the Dallas assassination. He moved to Dallas some time later and has been living there for three years.

Members of Garrison's staff sought to question Arcacha in

Dallas but he would not agree to be questioned except in presence of Dallas authorities. Garrison's men refused to question Arcacha under those conditions.

Novel said of Clay L. Shaw, who has been accused by Garrison of conspiring to murder the President, that "I know him, but not as related to this thing."

He said he never knew Lee Harvey Oswald, the man named by the Warren Commission as President Kennedy's assassin, and does not know Perry Raymond Russo, who testified he overheard David W. Ferrie, Oswald and Shaw plotting to kill Kennedy.

Novel said he knew Ferrie "indirectly."

A free-lance pilot, Ferrie died Feb. 22 while under investigation in connection with the Garrison probe.

MAKES EQUIPMENT

Novel said he also owns an electronics company and manufactures "anti-surveillance equipment."

Dean Andrews, a Jefferson Parish assistant district attorney, questioned by reporters before he entered the grand jury room for the second time in two weeks Thursday said Novel was a "good friend" and "client" of his.

Novel aroused the curiosity of Metairie residents in 1962 when he was making a flight test of an 18-foot helium-filled balloon. Neighbors saw a mysterious lighted object in the air over Metairie and began telephoning the newspaper to find out what it was. Novel was testing a balloon which employed a flickering fluorescent light system.

In September, 1963, Novel was mentioned in the news when he was a robbery victim. He was beaten unconscious and robbed as he prepared to enter his car in Chartres st. parking lot. He was attacked by five men.

A third person appearing before the grand jury Thursday morning was a young man who identified himself as Tommy

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Clark. He said he was not under subpoena but was asked to appear by assistant DA John Volz.

ANDREWS ARRIVES

In contrast to previous grand jury appearances when he was accompanied by his attorney, Sam Monk Zelden, Andrews showed up alone at 9 a.m. Thursday.

Asked why he was subpoenaed this time, he answered tersely, "I wish I knew." He appeared before the grand jury when it first took up the case a week ago.

The Jefferson attorney's connection with the case stems from an occurrence a few days after Kennedy was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Andrews told the Warren Commission investigating the case that he was contacted by a "Clay Bertrand" who asked him to defend Oswald.

Garrison contends that Bertrand is an alias used by Shaw, former managing director of the International Trade Mart, who faces conspiracy charges in the President's death. Shaw denies the charge.

REFUSES TO TAKE TEST

Andrews says he does not know whether Bertrand and Shaw are one and the same.



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
GORDON NOVEL

He has refused to take a lie detector test.

Jefferson Parish District Attorney Frank H. Langridge confirmed that he wrote a letter to Andrews Wednesday suspending him as an assistant until the Garrison investigation is over.

Langridge stressed that the suspension was no indication of wrongdoing on the part of Andrews, but he said he felt the unfavorable publicity brought upon the district attorney's office justified the suspension.

When the grand jury took up the investigation last week, the only other witness subpoenaed was Mrs. Josephine Hug, who worked for Shaw when he headed the International Trade Mart staff.