

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 24.—Gordon Novel charged here today that New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison planned to stun the late David W. Ferrie with an atropine dart and then question him under a 'truth' drug in an effort to extract a confession in the Kennedy assassination probe.

Novel, a former nightclub operator, has been held since April 1 on a fugitive warrant issued by Louisiana authorities. Extradition is still under way.

Novel's strange claims were included in the transcript of a polygraph test of Novel released by his Columbus lawyer at a press conference.

Elaborating on the charge contained in the transcript, Novel said he first tried to discourage Garrison from implementing the dart scheme because it might be lethal. But, according to Novel, Garrison insisted on carrying it out because "he was at his wits' end to get a confession out of Ferrie."

"Garrison knew that if he didn't get the confession, he couldn't move his case," Novel charged. At the time of their alleged discussion, Novel said he was working as an investigator for Garrison.

Novel, with his attorney, Jerry Weiner, seated beside him, then recounted his own plan to humor Garrison by telephoning an order for a dart powerful enough to disable a 180-pound bear.

"But the dart wouldn't have been chemically loaded—not on my life," Novel said. "I was just setting up Garrison." Novel indicated he was a double agent and that such evidence would have exposed Garrison's methods and motives for the investigation. He said Ferrie died before the plan could be carried out.

According to the transcript of the polygraph test—which was dated March 25, administered by Lloyd B. Furr, of McLean, Va., and paid for by Hearst newspapers and the National Broadcasting Co.—the discussion between Garri-

son and Novel occurred Feb. 21 at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans.

It was not clear from Novel's remarks Monday why Hearst and NBC had paid for the polygraph test, other than that they were interested in the case.

Some questions from the transcript:

Q.: During the meeting at the Roosevelt Hotel, did Garrison agree [endorse] a bizarre plan to obtain a confession from Ferrie?

A.: [Yes.]

Q.: Have you told the examiner the truth about this bizarre plan to obtain a confession from Ferrie?

A.: [Yes.]

At this point Furr, the examiner, noted in the transcript that the "plan to some extent was shooting an atropine dart into the unsuspecting Ferrie, taking him to a secret place, giving him sodium pentothal, and otherwise abusing him until he confessed. This included tearing off his artificial hair and eyebrows."

Such a notation appeared, according to Weiner, because respondents can give only yes or no answers during a polygraph test.

Q.: Did you converse with Garrison about any involvement concerning Ferrie in a conspiracy to kill the President?

A.: [Yes.]

Q.: (No.)

Q.: Do you have or have you ever had any knowledge of a genuine conspiracy to kill the President?

A.: [No.]

Q.: Do you honestly believe Garrison's conspiracy prosecution is a fraud?

A.: [Yes.]

Garrison has charged Novel with conspiracy to commit burglary at Houma, La., and wants him as a material witness in the Kennedy assassination investigation.

Extradition papers from Garrison's office returned by Ohio Gov. James Rhodes' office Friday to New Orleans for "technical corrections."

Novel Charges Garrison Plan To Stun Ferrie

By Abe S. Zaidan 4/25/67
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