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Extradition Papers Say Bunker Entry Admitted

Return of Novel Again Being Sought

The district attorney's office has claimed that assassination probe figure Gordon Novel admitted his part in the burglary of a munitions bunker that occurred in August of 1961.

An affidavit accompanying Novel's revised extradition papers to the governor of Ohio said that Novel admitted committing the burglary to District Attorney Jim Garrison and William Gurvich, a private investigator working for Garrison, it was revealed Thursday.

Novel was charged with conspiring with Sergio Arcacha Smith, the late David W. Ferrie and unnamed others to burglarize a munitions bunker near Houma leased to Schlumberger Well Services.

Garrison is attempting to extradite Novel, described as a very important witness, and Arcacha Smith, former anti-Castro leader in New Orleans, on the charge.

LIE TEST TAKEN

In Dallas, Arcacha's lawyer said Thursday a polygraph test shows his client knows nothing about any plot to assassinate President Kennedy.

The lawyer, Frank Hernandez, said the test was given to Arcacha March 7 in Dallas by the Scientific Security Service.

Resolutions were introduced in the State Legislature in Baton Rouge Thursday asking for return of Novel, Arcacha and Sandra Moffett McMaines, friend of star state witness Perry R. Russo.

Assistant district attorney

James L. Alcock said in the affidavit on Novel:

"The said Gordon Novel responded to questioning by Jim Garrison, district attorney for the Parish of Orleans, and William Gurvich, investigative aide to Jim Garrison, that he and the parties named herein did in fact commit the conspiracy and burglary outlined above."

He said the conspiracy was entered into in New Orleans at the home of Arcacha.

'WENT TO HOUMA'

Alcock said the participants went to Houma on or about Aug. 21, 1961.

"The trip was made from New Orleans to Houma at night in a Lincoln automobile owned and driven by Gordon Novel and in a panel truck.

"After arriving at the site of the bunker, which was leased by Schlumberger Well Services Corp., the defendant, Gordon Novel, Sergio Arcacha Smith, David W. Ferrie, and others, unnamed, unlawfully entered it by cutting the lock with a pair of bolt cutters which had been brought along for the purpose.

"After entry into the bunker (they) took various forms of explosives and munitions. Thereafter they returned to the city of New Orleans with the stolen munitions."

The papers also included a photograph of Novel supposedly identified by a Metairie woman who dated Novel in 1961.

The woman, Marlene Mancuso, 42 Oaklawn dr., Metairie, reportedly is the person who swore in another affidavit for extradition purposes that Novel was in New Orleans in August of 1961.

It was also learned that Juan

M. Valdes, who was subpoenaed to appear in Garrison's office at 10 a.m. Thursday, showed up Tuesday night and was questioned.

A spokesman for the district attorney's office declined to say what questions were put to Valdes, who describes himself as a playwright.

It was Valdes who discovered the body of Dr. Mary Stults

Sherman, victim of one of the more sensational New Orleans murders, in a St. Charles ave. apartment building in the summer of 1964. Valdes then lived in the same apartment building. Valdes was investigating smoke in the woman's apartment when he discovered her body. The killer, who has never been found, tried to burn the body.

LA., FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 26, 1967