

CONDITION PLACED ON NOVEL'S RETURN

T.P. - 5/15/68
Gov. Rhodes Wants Assurance No Probe Quiz

The governor of Ohio has placed a condition on the return of fugitive witness Gordon Novel to Louisiana on a charge of conspiracy to commit simple burglary, it was revealed Thursday.

Gov. James Rhodes has requested in a letter to Gov. John J. McKeithen written assurance that Novel's extradition would not include plans for questioning in the Kennedy assassination investigation of District Attorney Jim Garrison.

Garrison reacted to the request Thursday by calling it "one of the most incredible things I've ever seen."

'OBSTACLES AMAZING'

"I have never heard of anything like this before. The obstacles they have put in front of us are amazing," Garrison said.

In Garrison's office Thursday morning another of the two men named Oswald subpoenaed by the district attorney appeared shortly before 11 but refused to answer reporters' questions.

Julius J. Oswald, 8908 Wingate, employed by the Standard Coffee Company at 640 Magazine, where Lee Harvey Oswald worked in the summer of 1963, retreated behind a partition in Garrison's outer office.

Asked by one newsman if he were "Mr. Oswald," Oswald replied "I wouldn't know him if I saw him."

Oswald was ushered into the office of Assistant District Attorney James Alcock, where he



JULIUS J. OSWALD
Spends 45 minutes with DA.

stayed for 45 minutes. He left by a rear elevator, evading reporters shortly before noon.

A William S. Oswald appeared in the office Wednesday after being subpoenaed to appear at 4 p. m.

Novel's extradition papers were previously returned to Louisiana and forwarded to the Orleans Parish district attorney's office.

John M. McElroy, assistant to Gov. Rhodes, said in a letter to Gov. McKeithen dated April 24, three days after the date of a letter accompanying the extradition papers, that he

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OHIO GOVERNOR

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had been in touch with the district attorney's office by phone

OHIO PRESS REPORTS

"Persistent press reports in Ohio papers state that Dist. Atty. Garrison is seeking the extradition of Gordon Novel in order to have him available for questioning or as a witness in the grand jury investigation of events leading to the assassination of the late President Kennedy, McElroy wrote.

"It would be helpful in your letter of transmittal of your requisition could contain a statement expressly disclaiming the foregoing as the purpose of the extradition.

"If Dist. Atty. Garrison is seeking testimony from Gordon Novel, he could avail himself of Ohio's uniform out-of-state witness act, which has also been adopted by Louisiana."

Assistant District Attorney Alcock confirmed that his office has received a copy of the McElroy letter, but said no decision has been made on what will be done in reply to the request.

Telephone contact between McKeithen and Rhodes has apparently not resolved any issues, William Redmann, McKeithen's chief counsel, reported.

All papers and letters are being sent to Garrison for disposition, Redmann said.

Garrison's office has not filed with the state for Novel's extradition.

The district attorney's office in Terrebonne Parish, where Novel is charged with the actual burglary of a munitions bunker near Houma, has not filed extradition papers with the state.