

NOVEL RETURN EFFORT SNAGS

T-P 4/25/67
Defects in Extradition
Papers Found

Extradition proceedings for Gordon Novel have been delayed by what Ohio Gov. James A. Rhodes described as "certain technicalities which do not comply with the law."

Novel, arrested April 1 in Gahanna, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus, is wanted as a material witness here in District Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination investigation.

Also, mental tests made on Novel in Columbus indicate he has told the truth about the New Orleans investigation, a Columbus psychologist said Friday.

On the matter of the extradition papers, Rhodes' administrative assistant, John McElroy, said they will be returned with a request that certain technical defects be corrected. He did not elaborate.

In Baton Rouge, Gov. John J. McKeithen's executive counsel, William V. Redmann, said he did not know what the technicalities are.

DENIES REPORT

In Mexico, a Mexican newspaper claimed Friday that Garrison was there as a part of his investigation, but his office here emphatically denied the report.

Ultimas Noticias, an edition of the Mexican newspaper Excelsior, said Garrison was in Acapulco accompanied by a special investigator and four agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to investigate a Mexican living in either Acapulco or Guadalajara who allegedly participated in President Kennedy's assassination.

The paper attributed its information to New Orleanian Willard E. Robertson who owns a house in Acapulco. However, Robertson, contacted by a correspondent for The Times-Picayune National Service based in Mexico City said Garrison was not in Mexico.

"I had invited him (Garrison) to Acapulco but he was unable to accept. He is still in New Orleans. If he were here I would

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 20, Col. 1

SECTION ONE—PAGE TWENTY

NOVEL RETURN EFFORT SNAGGED

Continued from Page 1

be the first to know it," said Robertson.

Robertson has been host to Mayor Victor H. Schiro and Gov. John J. McKeithen in Acapulco since earlier this week, but he said Friday that Schiro left for New York Friday morning and McKeithen left for Shreveport about the same time.

"DEFINITELY IN N. O."

Assistant DA James L. Alcock, asked here Friday night if Garrison was in Mexico, replied: "Absolutely not." Alcock said Garrison was "definitely in New Orleans" at the present time, and added that Garrison had not been to Mexico on the case.

Locally, extradition papers for another probe figure were forwarded to the governor's office in Baton Rouge.

Alcock said papers for Sergio Arcacha Smith, one-time anti-Castro leader in New Orleans, were sent to the governor's office by car Friday.

Arcacha Smith, who now resides in Dallas, is charged jointly with Novel with conspiracy to commit simple burglary of a munitions bunker near Houma in August of 1961.

He has been arrested and is free on bond on the charge.

Dr. Willis Driscoll declared that Novel showed no psychosis, and his mental stability level cast no doubt on the validity

of two lie tests taken in the last month.

The tests were given to substantiate Novel's story that the JFK investigation by Garrison is a fraud and was started to build a political reputation for the prosecutor.

Novel's Columbus attorney, Jerry Weiner, said results of the two early lie tests and a third will be released Monday. The third test is slated Saturday.

Reportedly, the lie detector tests center on questions surrounding Novel's work as an anti-surveillance chief with the prosecutor's office, anti-wiretap work done for Gov. John J. McKeithen and the JFK investigation.

Dr. Driscoll said, "I'm satisfied after the mental tests that he is in touch with reality under the sodium amytol (truth serum)."

Novel took a lie detector test at McLean, Va., March 25 and was interviewed under sodium amytol by psychiatrists and Dr. Driscoll in Columbus April 10.