

Novel Extradition Papers Sent to Governor's Office

Destined for Ohio After McKeithen Signature

The district attorney's office took its first official step in the extradition of material witness Gordon Novel from Ohio Friday by forwarding papers in the complex proceeding to Gov. John J. McKeithen.

Assistant D. A. James L. Alcock said the papers were sent by car to Baton Rouge to be delivered to the office of the governor, who reportedly has been eager to sign them.

Novel, former New Orleans night club owner who has been called an important material witness by the district attorney's office in its presidential assassination conspiracy probe, left the city on March 19, several days before a scheduled appearance before the Orleans Parish grand jury for investigation testimony.

Novel was later charged with conspiring here to burglarize a munitions bunker near Houma in August of 1961, and with two counts of theft. The extradition proceedings are for the burglary-conspiracy charge, for which Novel has been arrested in Columbus, Ohio. He is currently free on bond there.

INCLUDE AFFIDAVIT

Alcock said the papers included an affidavit in which a witness places Novel in New Orleans in August, 1961, the month in which Novel is alleged to have conspired with Sergio Arcacha Smith and the late David Ferrie to commit the burglary.

However, this technicality is merely necessary to place Novel here during that month, Alcock said. "That person has nothing to do with the facts of the crime," he said of the affidavit witness.

Extradition papers on Arcacha Smith, former anti-Castro leader in New Orleans, are also being prepared, and will be ready by Monday or Tuesday, Alcock said.

Arcacha Smith, 44, was arrested in Dallas on the same burglary-conspiracy charge and is also free on bond.

Alcock said great care must be exercised in preparing such papers. "If you make a mistake, you're out of court," he said.

The basic proceeding will involve "a requisition requesting our governor to issue a requisition to the governor of Ohio

asking him to issue a governor's warrant," Alcock said.

BY MONDAY AFTERNOON

In Baton Rouge, McKeithen's executive counsel, William Redmann, said the legal work on the papers should be complete by Monday afternoon.

The papers have to be channeled through the offices of the Louisiana attorney general and the secretary of state before they can be sent to Ohio.

Another person sought as a witness by District Attorney Jim Garrison, Mrs. Lillie Mae McMaignes; meanwhile apparently evaded a court order for her return from Omaha, Neb., by going to Iowa.

Authorities at Omaha abandon-

ed attempts to serve the order on Mrs. McMaignes, who has contradicted points of testimony of Perry Raymond Russo, Garrison's star witness up to this point.

Arthur O'Leary, a deputy Douglas County attorney, said his office could not find the woman, who was arrested in Omaha on the basis of a material witness charge.

O'Leary said he assumes she is no longer in Nebraska. Known in New Orleans as Sandra Mof-fett, Mrs. McMaignes is reportedly staying with friends in Iowa, a state which does not adhere to the universal act regarding the return of out of state witnesses in criminal proceedings.

The New Orleans order was issued under the act.

DENIES ATTENDING

The woman says she was once in love with Russo, but denies that she attended a party at Ferrie's apartment in September of 1963. Russo was Garrison's principal witness in a four-day preliminary hearing for Clay L. Shaw, the only man indicted for participation in a conspiracy to murder John F. Kennedy.

Alcock speculated that the witness will probably be back in Omaha by April 25, the date of a hearing set after her material witness arrest.

However, if the return order is to be served at that time,

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some changes may be required since the order requires her to be available for questioning on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, which all come before April 25.

In a local investigation development, Layton Patrick Martens pleaded not guilty to a charge that he lied before the grand jury in testimony concerning the 1961 munitions burglary.

BOND CONTINUES

Attorney Milton Brener, after pleading for his client before Criminal District Judge Oliver P. Schulingkamp, was granted 30 days in which to file special pleadings. Martens will continue under a \$2,500 bond.

A former roommate of Ferrie's, the 24-year-old Martens has denied having lied to the grand jury.

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