

Novel Will Testify On Wiretapping Bill

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By JAMES RICHARDS
Of The Dispatch Staff

Gordon Novel, wanted as a witness in the Kennedy assassination probe in New Orleans, will switch from the courtroom to the Ohio Senate Wednesday to testify on two anti-wiretapping bills.

State Sen. Ralph Regula, R-Navarra, confirmed Tuesday that he requested Novel's "expert testimony" during the hearings on the "ban the bug" bill before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Novel's Columbus attorney, Jerry Weiner, said his client had agreed to appear before the committee.

THE BILLS, sponsored by Regula, would prohibit wiretapping and electronic bugging and would ban eavesdropping on private conversations.

Novel, former New Orleans night club

owner, is wanted in Louisiana as a material witness in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's controversial assassination investigation.

Novel claims he can "expose Garrison's fraud." The 29-year-old alleged fugitive said he worked as a double agent during February, performing bugging duties both for and against Garrison.

HE WAS ARRESTED April 1 in Gahanna on a Louisiana charge of conspiracy to commit simple burglary filed by Garrison. He is free in Columbus on \$10,000 bond.

Tuesday, Novel voluntarily appeared in the Columbus Clerk of Courts office after Garrison filed theft charges with Gahanna police.

Garrison's charges involve about \$3400 taken from a New Orleans printing firm and a commercial artist.

NOVEL HAS countered that the so-called thefts are civil matters involving alleged debts.

He remained free on the same bond.

Meanwhile, Governor Rhodes' office reported Wednesday the expected extradition papers still have not been received from Louisiana.

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Invitation To Novel Canceled

By JAMES RICHARDS
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A state senator has withdrawn his request to have Gordon Novel testify Wednesday afternoon in a hearing on two anti-wiretapping bills.

Sen. Ralph Regula, R-Navarre, sponsor of the bills, announced late Wednesday morning, "In view of the fact that an extradition request was filed in Governor Rhodes' office late yesterday, I have withdrawn my request to have Gordon Novel to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the eavesdropping and snooping bills."

Novel, who claims to be an expert in electronic bugging, earlier had agreed to appear. Regula said he informed Novel's attorney, Jerry Weiner, of the withdrawal.

Novel is wanted as a material witness in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's controversial probe of the Kennedy assassination.

GARRISON CHARGED Novel with conspiracy to commit simple burglary, a Lou-

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isiana crime, in connection with the theft of explosives from an oil well company in Houma, La.

Novel, free in Columbus on \$10,000 bond, has vowed to fight extradition.

Gerald S. Collins, deputy assistant to Rhodes, said he would not have a chance to examine the extradition documents until late this week.

IT PROBABLY will be first of next week, he reported, before a recommendation for or against an executive hearing will be made to Rhodes.

Novel was arrested in Gahanna April 1. Since then he has maintained that Garrison's investigation is a fraud.