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Novel Charges Coercion Plot

By ROBERT T. ENDICOTT

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COLUMBUS—Gordon Novel Monday said plans had been made to force a conspiracy suspect in the New Orleans Kennedy probe to confess despite a lie detector test that showed him innocent.

Novel, wanted as a material witness in the investigation, said New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison outlined the plan at a secret meeting Feb. 21.

THE SUSPECT was former airline pilot David W. Ferrie, found dead the next day of apparent natural causes.

"Garrison needed the confession to move his case," Novel said.

The 29-year-old electronics expert made the statement in an interview to reveal 18 answers given during a lie detector test Mar. 25. He said he would make public the 100-question interview later.

NOVEL SAID he submitted to the test and to two recent truth serum examinations to prove his veracity when he reveals his story about the probe.

He repeatedly has called the Garrison investigation a fraud.

Novel said Garrison planned to knock out Ferrie with an atropine dart and "brainwash him into confessing." The dart is the same kind used to calm dangerous animals.

"**FERRIE** maintained his innocence right up to the time he died and if he had gone into court it would have ended the investigation," Novel said.

He indicated Ferrie would have rebutted testimony by star prosecution witness Perry Russo, of Baton Rouge. Russo claims he heard Clay L. Shaw, Ferrie and Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald plan the Dallas murder two months before the President was killed.

Novel said he learned the

talked about arresting Shaw, well known New Orleans business man, but advised the prosecutor against it. Shaw has been indicted on a charge of conspiring to kill the President.



DAVID W. FERRIE
'His Confession Needed'

ing as an operative against Garrison and was, in fact, gathering evidence to expose Garrison for a second party. He refused to pinpoint the second side but indicated it was a news gathering agency.

Novel said Garrison wants him back in New Orleans to shut him up about the investigation.

"I can sink him," Novel said. "And if I go back I doubt if I would see the light of day . . . the jail cell would be so deep."

Novel added that Garrison

background while working as a security chief for the prosecutor.

HE ALSO CLAIMED Layton Martens, Ferrie's roommate, also passed a lie test that showed he knew nothing about a conspiracy. Martens has been charged with perjury before the New Orleans grand jury investigating the alleged plot.

"I agreed to get the atropine gun and dart for Garrison but it was going to be a phony," Novel said. "It was a setup to prove Garrison's investigation was a fraud."

Ferrie died before the equipment could be obtained.

NOVEL SAID he was work-

Transcript Gives Novel's Opinions

A transcript of the lie detector test given Novel is as follows:

Q. Did you meet Jim Garrison, 225 Baronne Building, on or about February 21st, 1967?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you later accompany Garrison to the Roosevelt Hotel on the same date?

A. Yes.

Q. Was this meeting at the request of Willard Robertson, Garrison's financial backer?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Robertson promise you that you would not be involved, if you co-operated with Garrison?

A. Yes.

Q. Was this meeting on February 21st, a highly secret meeting?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you converse with Garrison, about any involvement concerning Ferrie in the conspiracy to kill the President?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Garrison tell you that Ferrie passed a lie detector test, and according to the test was not involved in the conspiracy to kill the President?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Garrison tell you that Martens passed a lie detector test, and according to the test was not involved in the conspiracy to kill the President?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have, or have you ever had, any knowledge of a genuine conspiracy to kill the President?

A. No.

Q. To your knowledge was attorney Dean Andres part of a conspiracy to kill the President?

A. No.

extent was shooting an atro-pine dart into the unsuspecting Ferrie, taking him to a secret place, giving him sodium pentathol, and otherwise abusing him until he confessed. This included tearing off his artificial hair and eyebrows.)

Q. Did Bill Gervich threaten (intimidate) you in an effort to make you co-operate with Garrison in his investigation?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Garrison agree to endorse your plan for anti-surveillance equipment and security for him and his office?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you know Shaw in any connection with an assassination plot?

A. No.

Q. Do you now honestly believe Garrison's conspiracy prosecution is a fraud?

A. Yes.

Q. During the meeting at the Roosevelt hotel, did Garrison agree (endorse) a bizarre plan to obtain a confession from Ferrie?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you told the examiner the truth about this bizarre plan to obtain a confession from Ferrie?

A. Yes.

(NOTE: The plan to some