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Martens Posts

A 24-year-old student who once roomed with key Kennedy assassination probe figure David W. Ferrie walked into the Criminal District Court building here today, posted bond and denied grand

jury charges that he lied about a mysterious burglary of a Houma munitions dump. "I wish to state categorically," said Layton W. Martens, "that this charge has no basis in fact."

Martens, a senior at the University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette, was indicted yesterday for perjury.

\$2,500 bond continued to focus the Kennedy inquiry's spotlight on the six-year-old munitions dump theft.

Martens was accompanied by his attorney, Milton Brenner, when he entered the

HIS APPEARANCE TO post

Bond, Hits

court building shortly before noon.

He handed a written statement to newsmen. It declared:

"IN THE COURSE of this

investigation I have been questioned extensively about minute details of events which occurred anywhere from three to eight years ago.

"To the very best of my ability, all questions have

been answered truthfully. This allegation in the indictment that I testified untruthfully is, in itself, untrue."

He said he took a lie detector test at the request of Dist.

Charge

Atty. Jim Garrison during December.

"THE POLYGRAPH operator and one of Mr. Garrison's investigators both informed me," his statement said, "based on the results of the test they were satisfied I was telling the truth."

A cello major scheduled to graduate from USL this year, Martens wore a dark collegiate blazer, Ivy League striped shirt and slacks as he waded through questioning reporters into the Criminal District Court clerk's office.

HIS APPEARANCE to post bail was delayed this morning when a slight hitch developed in confirming the property at 908 Joseph with which the appearance bond

is secured. James Smith, whom Martens identified as his grandfather, signed the bond.

After handing reporters his typed statement, Martens declined to comment further. He was smiling and appeared to be in good spirits.

MARTENS' CASE was assigned to Judge Oliver J. Schulingkamp's Section F of Criminal District Court. Immediately after Martens post-

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ed bond, Judge Bernard J. Bagert signed an order permitting Martens to live outside the Orleans Parish jurisdiction so that he may continue music studies at Lafayette.

He was indicted within three hours after Clay L. Shaw, the only person so far charged in direct connection with the Kennedy death inquiry, faced his accusers at a formal arraignment in Criminal District Court and pleaded not guilty.

At Houma, meanwhile, Dist. Atty. Wilmore Broussard has ordered the arrests of fugitive witness Gordon Novel and erstwhile anti-Castro leader Sergio Vincente Arcacha Smith after charging them with burglary of the munitions bunker.

The 29-year-old Novel and Arcacha, 44, were charged earlier in New Orleans with conspiracy to steal explosives from the Schlumberger Wells Service bunker. Ferrie was named as a theft conspirator in the indictment along with unnamed "others."

Martens was the late Ferrie's roommate in 1963 when President Kennedy was shot on a Dallas street. Martens was accused of lying under oath and jurors cited three questions and answers to support the charge.

When Martens was called before the investigating jury March 29, his indictment said, the colloquy went this way:

Q—How often—How well did you know Gordon Novel?

A—I don't recall ever hearing of or meeting Gordon Novel.

Q—Are you telling me that even when the boxes were being removed from the bunker you did not know the purpose of the trip?

A—No, as best I can remember, I was there. Yes, I do remember being there. The purpose of the trip was not revealed to me.

Q—You do not remember Sergio Arcacha Smith being on the trip?

A—No, I don't. In his prepared statement, Martens said of the questions and answers.

"I have read the testimony

contained in my indictment. This is the testimony the DA claims is false. The testimony is the truth."

Arcacha Smith was arrested at Dallas Monday and freed on \$1,500 bail under a New Orleans warrant charging him with conspiracy to burglarize the explosives dump. Gordon Novel, wanted here as a material witness in Garrison's assassination inquiry, was taken into custody on the same charge at a Columbus, Ohio, suburb Saturday. He is free on \$10,000 bond.

The district attorney at Houma said he filed simple burglary charges against both Arcacha and Novel late yesterday and has ordered their arrests. DA Broussard said he will initiate extradition proceedings against both men if they refuse to return voluntarily.

BROUSSARD declined to reveal what time of day the bunker was burglarized or what kind of explosives were taken. He would not say whether he expects to charge others in the theft.

William Gurvich, chief investigator for Garrison, has said the "others" in the conspiracy are known and will be arrested.

The Schlumberger bunker at an abandoned military air base near Houma was burglarized in August, 1961. Al-

most two years to the day later, federal agents seized more than a ton of explosives and war materials at a secluded frame house in St. Tammany Parish between Mandeville and Lacombe.

As Garrison's Kennedy investigation unfolded in early March, the New Orleans DA was reported looking for a group of men involved in hoarding the cache of munitions uncovered in 1963.

THE ST. TAMMANY house was owned by William Julius McLaney of New Orleans, who operated a tourist business in Cuba until driven out by Castro in 1960. Mrs. McLaney said they had loaned the house to a Cuban refugee she could identify only as "Jose Juarez."

No trace has been reported of Juarez, and no one has

been charged in connection with the St. Tammany find. The munitions there included 100-pound bomb casings, bomb fuses, primer cord, blasting caps, and a thickener used to make napalm.

Arcacha, charged in the Houma munitions burglary, is a self-styled anti-Castro leader who established the New Orleans chapter of the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front in December of 1960 before the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion. Ferrie reportedly was active in anti-Castro affairs and was associated with Arcacha in 1961.

Shaw, a 54-year-old retired New Orleans businessman, was indicted here March 22, charged with plotting Kennedy's murder together with Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald.

GARRISON CONTENDS the plotting was done at Ferrie's apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy., where the late pilot roomed with Martens.

John J. McKeithen confirmed reports that a firm headed by Novel supplied specialized electronics equipment to the governor in 1965.

The equipment was described as "antibugging equipment" and was bought after police received reports the governor's office might be tapped with illegal listening devices.

COL. THOMAS D. Burbank, state police superintendent and director of public safety, said McKeithen's security officer, Col. Aubrey Young, contracted for the equipment with Electronic Systems International Corp. of New Orleans. Novel was president of the firm.

The equipment included a

Ferrie was found dead there within days after his name was linked publicly to the inquiry. A coroner's report said he died of natural causes.

In another development today, a spokesman for Gov.

noise machine, described by Col. Burbank as a "jamming device," and other antibugging devices. The purchase amounted to something more than \$500.

As the grand jury continued its inquiry yesterday, another witness tied closely with Novel appeared to testify.

HE WAS IDENTIFIED as Rancier Blaise Ehlinger, 28, of Metairie, and his attorney said he had known Novel for a dozen years, both socially and in business.

Police records show Ehlinger and Novel were arrested here in 1959 and charged with the theft of a car from Baton Rouge. The stolen auto, a Corvette, was found in a garage the two men rented at 2917 College cts., according to Baton Rouge police records.

Charges were dropped against the pair when a third youth admitted the theft.



—States-Item Photo.
LAYTON P. MARTENS
Posts bond.