

St. Item 4/3/67

DALLAS COPS NAB ARCACHA IN PLOT PROBE

Sergio Arcacha Smith, 44, a former anti-Castro leader in New Orleans, was arrested today in Dallas by city police on a warrant issued by District Attorney Jim Garrison. The warrant charges Arcacha with conspiring with David Ferrie and Gordon Novel to commit burglary.

An appearance in a

Columbus, Ohio, court today by Gordon Novel, wanted here by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison in connection with his Kennedy assassination probe, was highlighted by vague references to Cuba and plot investigations.

Novel, 29-year-old former

New Orleans nightclub operator, remained in jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond after his appearance in a Columbus municipal court on a fugitive charge formally filed today by police from suburban Gahanna, where Novel was picked up Saturday night.

NOVEL WAS arrested at

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the request of Garrison, who wants Novel as a witness in his inquiry into the Kennedy murder. The fugitive charge stemmed, however, from a count of conspiring to commit burglary.

Garrison filed the burglary charge against Novel and former Cuban exile leader Sergio Arcacha Smith late Friday. The case was allotted today to Criminal District Court Judge Thomas M. Brahmey.

Novel showed up before Municipal Judge Wilbur Shull without his lawyer and began arguing his own case for a low bond.

"I used to do work for Garrison. In fact, I did some of the investigating in this so-called plot," Novel said. "I've got a lot of charges of my own to make about him."

SHULL INTERRUPTED Novel before he could say any more.

Later, Novel said that he had heard it said he planned to return to New Orleans voluntarily but, "I did not intend to do that because of this Cuban. . ."

At this point, Novel's attorney, Jerry Weiner, interrupted and silenced him. Weiner appeared in the courtroom while Novel was talking.

NOVEL ARGUED he is not a fugitive from justice, as charged, because he left New Orleans before any charge was filed against him. He also said he had established intent to take up residence in Columbus, where he plans to marry Abby Mulligan.

Novel originally was booked at the Columbus City Hall for investigation. Another municipal judge, Dean Strausbaugh, set bond at \$10,000 Saturday night. Garrison had requested \$50,000 bond.

Novel has said he will fight extradition to Louisiana all the way to the United States Supreme Court if necessary.

Weiner said earlier today that his next step might be to ask for a formal petition to Ohio Gov. James A. Rhodes listing the reasons Novel does not want to return to Louisiana and setting the stage for an extradition hearing.

JOHN M'ELROY, Rhodes'

chief assistant, said today, however, that hearings seldom are granted and extradition only rarely refused.

He pointed out that Louisiana has not returned to Ohio a man arrested in the New Orleans area on an Ohio charge of larceny by trick. That man, Eugene Woods, has been sought by Ohio for many months, but McElroy said, "I don't know that we will trade one for the other."

Weiner said that bond money for Novel is being collected by friends.

Novel, who talked readily with newsmen Saturday, refused a request today to be interviewed. His lawyer, asked about the courtroom reference to Cuba, said "You are not going to get me to comment on that."

Weiner said later that he silenced Novel because "I never want a client to make a statement that I don't know in advance what he is going to say."

He also said he was not notified of the court appearance. "I just happened to stumble into it."

TECHNICALLY, THE municipal court case was continued for 30 days. Weiner said, however, that extradition proceedings probably will supplant any further action in municipal court.

Extradition, he said, "is going to take a lot longer than 30 days."

He said that extradition papers have not yet arrived at the office of Gov. Rhodes.

In another development in the conspiracy probe this week, Clay L. Shaw will be arraigned at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday before Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr.

THE 54-YEAR-OLD former International Trade Mart director will be arraigned on charges of criminal conspiracy to murder President Kennedy.

The defendant's attorneys have said a plea of not guilty will be made. Shaw has been free on \$10,000 bond since his arrest March 1.

ONE OF THE things Garrison reportedly wants to talk to Novel about is a panel truck which figures significantly in the DA's investigation.

Novel was arrested as he entered the office of a news

service operated by Richard L. Paugh, a local columnist and television newsmen. Paugh denied any connection with Novel but said he

had interviewed him about two weeks ago.

GAHANNA MAYOR Paul Van Auken said Novel had his suitcases stored in Paugh's office and "apparently was preparing to leave by plane Saturday night."

Van Auken said he had no idea where Novel might have been planning to go, but noted that his fiancée was out of town, possibly in Chicago.

The fiancée, Miss Mulligan of Columbus, was listed as the most likely reason for Novel's being here. Her brother said Miss Mulligan had been given a ring by Novel.

A business acquaintance said Novel was developing an "anti-bugging" device in conjunction with a local electronics firm.

In Indiana, the former police chief of Terre Haute said today a rifle of the same model as the one named as the gun used in the slaying of President Kennedy was found in a Terre Haute hotel three days after the assassination.

Frank Riddle, the retired chief, said the rifle, a 6.5 millimeter Italian Mannlicher-Carcano, was traced to a salesman from San Antonio, Tex., whose name he declined to reveal.

RIDDLE, SPEAKING from Putnamville, Ind., where he is now in charge of the Indiana State Farm, said that all of his information about the rifle was turned over to the Warren Commission and that the rifle was taken by Secret Service agents.

Riddle said San Antonio authorities told him the salesman had no criminal record, was a member of the Young Communist League and was an expert rifle marksman.

He said the salesman registered at the Terre Haute House Hotel Nov. 25, 1963, and according to the desk clerk, was carrying a "long package."

Shortly after noon Nov. 26, the salesman checked out without the package, Riddle said. The rifle, found by a

maid, bore no fingerprints. Two telephone calls from the salesman's room Nov. 25, he said, were to a Terre Haute gun shop and to a store that sold rifle ammunition. Investigators, he said, learned that the salesman was told the weapon would sell for \$5.

Riddle said the salesman later bought a bus ticket to St. Louis.

He said that he had received no word from Garrison and added, "I think Garrison may have something, but I don't plan to contact him with the information I have."