

DA'S WITNESS NOVEL IS ARRESTED IN OHIO

T.P. 4/2/67
Carrying Tear Gas Guns,
Offers No Resistance

Gordon Novel, the elusive figure wanted for questioning here by District Attorney Jim Garrison in relation to his presidential murder probe, was arrested at 3:45 p.m. Saturday in a suburb of Columbus, Ohio.

Police in Gahanna, Ohio, a hamlet of 12,000 persons in Franklin County, said Novel, 29, offered no resistance when he was apprehended while walking along a street.

Novel, former owner of the Jamaican Village Bar at 800 N. Rampart, has been sought by Garrison's office since March 25 as a material witness in an alleged local plot to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Gahanna Police Chief Robert F. Brandon said that Novel had two tear gas guns in his possession when arrested. He added, however, that the possession of tear gas guns is legal in Ohio.

Novel was to have been transferred late Saturday afternoon to the Columbus City Jail where he was to have conferred with attorneys.

NOT QUESTIONED

Asked if Novel planned to waive extradition proceedings, Brandon said that he had not questioned Novel for fear that "it might hurt the case." The police chief said he did not know what business Novel had in Gahanna.

Asked how his department knew that Novel was in town, Brandon replied, "You know how things leak out." He did not elaborate. Novel's arrest followed a 45-minute stakeout by Gahanna officers, he added.

Brandon said Garrison had called Gahanna Mayor Paul Van Auken Saturday morning in connection with Novel's presence there.

William Gurvich, a private investigator serving as Garrison's chief aide in the probe, said:

TO SEEK QUICK RETURN

"We will extradite as soon as possible if Novel is willing to

return. If he refuses, we will go through the government and extradite as soon as possible."

Gurvich said he had also been in contact with Gahanna police since Saturday morning, and that he knew of the stakeout for Novel.

Steven R. Plotkin, Novel's attorney here, said his client had called him from Gahanna after being apprehended. However, Plotkin said he would not comment on whether Novel planned to waive extradition proceedings until after he (Plotkin) had conferred with Columbus attorneys. He added that he was trying to help Novel obtain legal counsel in Columbus.

Another development in the case came Saturday when attorney-author Mark Lane and Clay L. Shaw's defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond exchanged verbal blows here in the wake of a statement by Lane that Garrison had an "iron-clad case."

It was reported that Dymond complained to Criminal

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District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. Friday that the Lane statement served to inflame public opinion against his client, Shaw.

Shaw is charged by Garrison with conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Dymond said he talked with Judge Haggerty about the Lane statement made at a special meeting of the Young Men's Business Club Thursday. "I think it was completely improper," said Dymond of the remark attributed to Lane, author of the critical analysis of the Warren Commission Report, "Rush to Judgement." Lane has practiced law for many years.

"I don't quite understand a lawyer making such a state-

ment that the state has an 'iron-clad case' and that he wouldn't want to defend the case," said Dymond.

"To my thinking, it is unethical. But it is quite in keeping with Mr. Lane's promoting of his book and movie. He's an opportunist."

'SHAW NOT MENTIONED'

Lane responded that he had not talked about Clay Shaw in his speech.

"What I said was that I had talked with Mr. Garrison and seen the evidence that a powerful domestic force was behind the conspiracy. I have not said that I believe Clay Shaw was involved with that force.

"I can't see why Mr. Dymond has become frantic. Perhaps he has information I don't have. Maybe his panic flows from that source."

Lane said he came to New Orleans at the request of the YMBC. "From my reception here," said Lane, "it indicates to me that people here are interested in the subject.

"I am an American citizen and have a right to speak on important questions. This right is guaranteed by the Constitution. I am sure no judge would interfere with that right.

"As far as Mr. Dymond is concerned, if he had gone directly to the court instead of to the press and television first, I would consider him sincere when he says he does not want publicity."

Judge Haggerty would make no comment about the meeting with Dymond. Instead, he told The Times-Picayune that he will lay down guidelines concerning the forthcoming Shaw arraignment and trial at a 2 p. m. press conference Monday.

Lane will leave New Orleans, probably Sunday, for a speaking engagement at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minn., Monday. "But I'll be back in New Orleans in a month or so," said

Lane.

Meanwhile, extradition fights in Texas and Canada loomed over ordered arrests of two men linked to Garrison's probe.

Garrison telegraphed arrest warrants to Montreal for Gordon Novel and to Dallas for Sergio Archacha Smith, based on charges of conspiring to burglarize a Houma munitions bunker in 1961.

A warrant for Novel's arrest as a material witness in the plot inquiry was issued last week.

The new charge accuses Novel and Archacha of conspiring with the late David W. Ferrie, another key assassination inquiry figure, to commit simple burglary of a Schlumberger Wells Services munitions dump 40 miles southwest of New Orleans.

Bill Gurvich, the district attorney's special services investigator, declined to say whether the alleged burglary is connected directly with the investigation. "This case occurred two years before the Shaw thing," he said, "and may or may not be related."