

RUSSO TAKES IN GRAND

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STAND JURY QUIZ

2/22/67

Perry Raymond Russo, District Attorney Jim Garrison's star witness in his probe of the death of President John F. Kennedy, went before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury today.

Russo's surprise appearance followed disclosure that a witness subpoenaed to appear today, Gordon Novel, is in Washington, D. C.

Russo was called into the jury room at 2:20 p. m., escorted by assistant DA's Alvin Oser and Andrew Sciambria.

At last week's preliminary hearing for Clay L. Shaw, Russo testified that he heard

Shaw, David William Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald plot the President's death in Ferrie's apartment here in September, 1963.

Kennedy was shot to death in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

Steven R. Plotkin, Novel's attorney, said his client left town Saturday and will return "in due course."

PLOTKIN WOULD NOT COMMENT on why Novel is in Washington nor would he say why his client was subpoenaed.

Deputies for Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. failed last night to locate Novel at the Jamaican Village, 800 N. Rampart, a lounge he is reported to have owned. They said they did not have the address of his French Quarter apartment.

Plotkin said:

"His absence from the state is not to avoid the subpoena, or not to cooperate with the district attorney's office, but for personal reasons.

"It should be noted that this scheduled meeting of the grand jury is unusual in that it was called for Wednesday rather than the usual Thursday meetings.

"It was Mr. Novel's and my impression when we appeared last Thursday . . . that he would be recalled the following Thursday."

Asked if Novel would have been present for a grand jury meeting tomorrow, Plotkin said he wouldn't comment on that but added he was surprised to learn of the subpoena for Wednesday.

Asked about Novel's connection with

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—States-Item Photo.

GORDON NOVEL



—States-Item Photo.

PERRY R. RUSSO

Probe--

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Sergio Archacha Smith, Plotkin said an earlier statement that appeared in the States-Item would have to speak for itself.

NOVEL, 29, testified before the jury last Thursday. Prior to his appearance, he had told the States-Item that he believed Garrison wanted to question him about the 1961 events involving former Cuban exile leader Sergio Archacha.

The jury met this morning on routine business, but was scheduled to take up the Garrison probe this afternoon.

Meanwhile, Clay L. Shaw, accused by Garrison of participating in a conspiracy to kill the President, today gained permission from the Criminal District Court to spend this weekend on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

THE MOTION seeking authority for Shaw to leave the jurisdiction of the Criminal Court was filed by attorney F. Irvin Dymond with Judges Malcolm V. O'Hara and Matthew S. Braniff, who were two of the three-judge court which ordered Shaw bound over for trial following a four-day preliminary hearing last week.

Dymond filed a copy of the motion with Shaw's bondsman, Bernard F. Pettingill of the Summit Fidelity and Surety Co.

Judge O'Hara told the States-Item that he granted authority to Shaw to leave the jurisdiction. He said that First Asst. Dist. Atty. Charles Ray Ward did not oppose the motion to leave the jurisdiction.

The motion for permission to leave the jurisdiction said:

1. That Shaw is booked in these proceedings with the crime of conspiracy to commit murder and is presently out of jail on a bail bond of \$10,000.

2. That Shaw, desirous to go to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, which is outside the jurisdiction of the Criminal District Court, will leave New Orleans Thursday and will return to the city Monday.

3. That Shaw will furnish his attorneys with his precise address and telephone number on the Gulf Coast and if required to return prior to March 27 will do so upon approximately three hours notice from his attorneys.

4. That the surety on the bail bond joins in the motion for permission to leave the jurisdiction for the purpose of indicating his consent to the granting authority. And further, Pettingill requests that such permission and authority be granted.

Joining Dymond in his motion, in addition to Pettingill, were Edward F. and William J. Wegmann, attorneys.

It was not known whether any other witnesses, besides Novel, were subpoenaed for this afternoon's jury session.

NOVEL HAD appeared last Thursday on the same day that suspended Jefferson Parish Assistant District Attorney Dean Andrews was questioned and later indicted for perjury.

At that time, Andrews told reporters that Novel is a good friend and a client of his.

Heyd's deputies reported that when they went to the Jamaican Village last night, they were told that Novel had sold the lounge Sunday, three days after his appearance before the jury.

Interviewed before his first session with the jury, Novel said he knew why he was being subpoenaed, "but I'd rather not say now."

"I THINK Mr. Garrison wants to know something about activities during 1961 which are related to Mr. Sergio Archacha Smith. And that's all I want to say right now," he said.

Arcacha lived in New Orleans during 1961 and was leader in an organization known as the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front.

He was training men here to participate in an invasion of Cuba. Arcacha left New Orleans in 1962 and moved to Houston, where he was living at the time of the assassination. He later moved to Dallas and has been living there for three years.