

NEW WITNESS ELUDES THE DA

Lives in Iowa Which Not
in Compact

Times Herald 12/31/67
Thomas Edward Beckham, 27, one of three new witnesses subpoenaed by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison in his Kennedy Death plot investigation has eluded legal attempts to bring him here for testimony.

Beckham, a former New Orleans disc jockey and entertainer, told Omaha, Neb., newsman Saturday he is living in Iowa. Another wanted witness, Sandra Moffett McMaines, is also a resident of Iowa, one of four states which do not honor the interstate witness compact.

This is the statute under which Garrison sought Beckham's return, in order for him to testify before the Orleans Parish grand jury.

Garrison's office Friday issued subpoenas for Beckham, Loran Eugene Hall of Kernville, Calif., and Lawrence J. Howard Jr., of Los Angeles.

MATERIAL WITNESSES

All three men, according to the DA, are important material witnesses in his continuing investigation into the Nov. 22,

1963, assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas.

Garrison said in his request for Beckham's subpoena that Beckham was in Dallas the day Kennedy was shot. Garrison also said Beckham was a close associate of David W. Ferrie.

Ferrie was named as one of the presidential assassination conspirators in the indictment of retired New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw.

Ferrie once claimed to be an ordained priest in a small religious order, the Old Orthodox Catholic Church of North America. Ferrie died last February of what the coroner described as natural causes.

GARRISON STATEMENT

In a statement supporting his subpoena, Garrison said Beckham was a priest in the same order Ferrie claimed to belong to and often wore a black suit with the collar reversed when he lived in New Orleans.

Beckham's address, as listed by Garrison is Omaha, but Beckham told newsmen he was living in a motel in Council Bluffs, Iowa, just across the Missouri River from the Nebraska city. Beckham said he was working under the name of Mark Evans as a musical entertainer in the area.