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NL PROBE 320

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 24 (AP)--THE CRIMINAL SHERIFF'S OFFICE ASKED CHICAGO POLICE TODAY TO ARREST A MISSING WITNESS IN DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S PROBE OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

AUTHORITIES REQUESTED THE ARREST OF GORDON NOVEL, 29, WHOM GARRISON DESCRIBED AS AN IMPORTANT AND MATERIAL WITNESS FOR THE GRAND JURY CONSIDERING THE CASE.

IN A TELEGRAM, THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE SAID THE CHARGE AGAINST NOVEL IS "MATERIAL WITNESS, TO WIT, CONSPIRACY TO MURDER JOHN F. KENNEDY."

NOVEL LEFT TOWN WHILE UNDER SUBPOENA TO APPEAR BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

THE RELUCTANT WITNESS WAS LAST REPORTED IN COLUMBUS, OHIO, WHERE HE LEFT A NOTE SAYING HE WAS GOING TO CHICAGO. HE SAID HE DID NOT PLAN TO RETURN TO NEW ORLEANS UNLESS GUARANTEED FREEDOM FROM "HARASSMENT."

"FRAUD," WAS HIS WORD FOR GARRISON'S INVESTIGATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION.

✓ THE WIRE TO CHICAGO POLICE GAVE AN FBI FILE NUMBER AND A FINGERPRINT CLASSIFICATION FOR NOVEL, WHO WAS DESCRIBED AS "WHITE MALE...MEDIUM BUILD, RUDDY COMPLEXION, BROWN HAIR, BLUE EYES, DATE OF BIRTH 2/7/38, 153 POUNDS, 5 FEET 9."

IN NEW ORLEANS, NOVEL'S ATTORNEY, STEVEN R. PLOTKIN, SAID HE KNOWS WHERE NOVEL IS, BUT WOULD NOT DIVULGE HIS WHEREABOUTS. PLOTKIN SAID HE INTENDS TO FILE SOME MOTIONS IN THE CASE MONDAY, BUT WOULD NOT ELABORATE.

THE LAWYER CONFIRMED THAT NOVEL HAD MOVED OUT OF HIS FRENCH QUARTER APARTMENT.

ANOTHER WITNESS, DONALD DOODY, HAD BEEN SUBPOENAED BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO APPEAR TODAY. BUT ASST. DIST. ATTY. JAMES L. ALCOCK SAID DOODY WAS QUESTIONED FULLY YESTERDAY, AND HIS RETURN WAS NOT NEEDED.

ALCOCK SAID DOODY IS "NOT TOO IMPORTANT" IN THE CASE. HE SAID THE RED-BEARDED MAN KNEW CLAY L. SHAW, WHO IS CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING TO MURDER PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

SHAW, THE FIRST MAN EVER TO FACE TRIAL FOR THE ASSASSINATION, WAS ON THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST FOR THE EASTER WEEKEND.

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