

Transcribed from tape.

March 25, 1967 (SATURDAY)

KGO 5 p.m.

Announcer: An arrest warrant remains out for Gordon Novel, a New Orleans cocktail lounge operator, in connection with the alleged plot to kill President Kennedy. The story, from ABC's Murphy Martin: Martin -- Gordon Novel contacted ABC Thursday, and since that time I have talked with him numerous times by telephone. ABC had no plans to break the story until Novel answered his arrest summons in New Orleans, ^{AMS,} but since his statements ^{were} ~~was~~ released elsewhere this evening, here is the story he told me: Gordon Novel thinks Jim Garrison's investigation is a fraud, and he told me why he was particularly concerned.

Novel: You're playin' with -- You're playin' with the life of the country, you know, that's exactly what he's doing, and you're -- all his secret grand jury hearings, I ain't call that no state -- police state inquisition for nothing.

Martin: Why is district attorney Jim Garrison so anxious to locate Novel ?

Novel: The number one thing I've got to him is I've got him right where it hurts. You understand ? I've called him exactly what he is, and I'm not that material to his case, other than he thinks he can make me frame Dean Andrews.

Martin : How does Gordon Novel think Jim Garrison will try to use him ?

Novel : He's gonna try and paint me up as a CIA agent in 1961, or a contact, and I ain't gonna buy it, baby, because I wasn't.

Martin: What is Gordon Novel's assessment of the New Orleans investigation ?

Novel: This thing is not real; the man is -- he's gotta make it real, and he's got the legal tools to do it with; he don't care.

Martin : Gordon Novel will probably tell his story to Jim Garrison, in person, next week. This is Murphy Martin, ABC, New York.

5:55 p.m. KGO

Announcer: Gordon Novel, wanted as a material witness in the New Orleans investigation of the Kennedy assassination, surfaced today in a Washington suburb. For the past several days, ABC's Murphy Martin has been in contact with Novel, who left New Orleans because of what he called harassment from district attorney Jim Garrison. Tonight Gordon Novel told ABC about his hopes:

Novel: I'd like to see this thing wrapped up and finished up once and for all, because I really believe that uh it would bury uh decently and honorably a great president, and that people could, uh, you know, remember him for the great things and not all of this, uh, trash that Mr. Garrison has dug up, and which is, uh -- it's a fraud. Simple. Simple, enormous fraud, and about the only way to completely wipe this thing off, once and for all, off the record books and put these, uh, these ridiculous authors' books off of the best seller lists of the frauds of the century is a congressional investigation.

Announcer: And Gordon Novel also told ABC's Murphy Martin that he is in no way material to the case being pushed by D.A. Jim Garrison of New Orleans.

6 p.m. NBC ~~KNBR~~ KNBR

Announcer : Gordon Novel, the so-called missing witness in the New Orleans investigation of President Kennedy's assassination, turned up in Washington today. Novel left New Orleans shortly before a grand jury tried to subpoena him. In an NBC interview today, Novel said he was once offered a job by New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison. Novel was described as

an electronics expert whom Garrison wanted to hire to protect his investigation from possible bugging by the FBI or anyone else. Novel has described the Garrison investigation as a fraud. To back up his contention, he underwent a lie ~~detector~~ detector test today. The operator of the test said Novel passed, showing no deceptions.

7:55 p.m. KGO — same as ~~5:55~~^{5:00} p.m., except reference to Dean Andrews omitted.

8 p.m. NBC KNBR (Monitor) (Novel ~~pronounced~~ pronounced Norvel throughout)

Announcer: The so-called missing witness in the New Orleans investigation of President Kennedy's assassination turned up in Washington today. Gordon Novel appeared in an exclusive interview on the NBC News ~~Sheridan~~^{Sheridan}-McNeill television program. He also passed a lie detector test on his charges that the New Orleans probe run by district attorney Jim Garrison is a fraud. A New Orleans grand jury has issued a subpoena for Novel. He has been ordered to pay a \$50,000 bond as a material witness, or be arrested as a fugitive. During tonight's interview, NBC news correspondent Walter Sheridan asked Novel what he thinks of the Garrison investigation:

Novel: In my opinion he's perpetrating one of the most enormous frauds on the world and on the United States in particular, and on my home state, and on New Orleans, and, uh, if it goes much further, uh, there's just no telling where Mr. Garrison will go.

Sheridan: What is his motive? Why is he doing it, in your opinion?

Novel: He reminds me of Huey Long, and he reminds me of a combination of Huey Long and some things that I've read about Dr. Goebbels. He's a little bit o' both.

Sheridan: What is his motive?

Novel: Well, Walter, that's open to conjection (sic). He can go anywhere with this thing. If he convinces the public that he's real, and if this farce is real, this circus that he's puttin' on down there is real, uh, he's gonna ~~try and ultimately~~^{try and ultimately} drag in the CIA, and he's gonna drag in left and right, and as he says, through the

looking glass e- black is white and white is black, uh, I think he's the one that's black and white at the same time. Uh, he can go anywhere, he can say well, your government did this, he can ~~say~~^{say}, uh, there's just no telling what he's gonna try and say. At the rate he's goin', maybe tomorrow you'll be it.

Announcer: Gordon Novel, the man New Orleans authorities have ordered arrested as a material witness in their investigation of President Kennedy's assassination. Some time after the Novel interview appeared on NBC television, District of Columbia police received a request from New Orleans authorities to arrest him. In their telegram, New Orleans officials suggested to the Washington police that they would find Novel by contacting NBC. However, after his appearance on the television program, Novel left without disclosing his future plans.
