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Missing JFK Plot Witness Found In D.C.

WASHINGTON (UP) — Gordon Novel, the "missing witness" in New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation of an alleged Kennedy assassination conspiracy, popped up in a Washington suburb Saturday and took a lie

detector test on his charge that the Garrison investigation was a "fraud."

The operator of the polygraph test, Lloyd Furr of nearby McLean, Va., said Novel "passed" the lie test. "He showed no deceptions," Furr said.

"Do you honestly believe Garrison's conspiracy prosecution is a fraud?" Furr said he asked Novel. "Yes," he said Novel replied.

Novel, a former New Orleans nightclub operator, left New Orleans shortly before a grand jury investigating the assassination tried to subpoena him. He turned up in Cleveland, Ohio, Wednesday and told newsmen that the Garrison investigation was a politically-motivated fraud. Then he dropped out of sight until he turned up in McLean Saturday.

In New Orleans, Judge Matthew Braniff has issued orders for Novel to post a \$50,000 bond as a material witness or be arrested as a fugitive.

Novel's connection with the Garrison investigation has never been precisely spelled out. He was a roommate of the late

David Ferrie during the time Garrison charges Ferrie was conspiring with Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw to kill the late President.

However, Novel has denied that he ever saw Ferrie with either Oswald or Shaw during the time he was Ferrie's roommate.

Novel, later Saturday, was interviewed on a National Broadcasting Company news program. NBC described Novel as an electronics expert and said Garrison once had tried to hire Novel to protect his investigation from possible "bugging" by the FBI or anyone else.

Novel said he turned down an offer of financial assistance from Garrison. Asked why the New Orleans investigator would want him as a material witness, Novel replied:

"He could probably get me—if he put enough pressure on me, if he had me in his pocket the way he has a lot of other people—to say anything he would want me to say." Novel did not elaborate.

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