

San Jose Mercury 30 March 1967

# 'Kennedy Plot' Jury Recesses

NEW ORLEANS (UPI)—A grand jury probing the assassination of President Kennedy questioned David Ferrie's former roommate Wednesday, then recessed for a week without returning any indictments in the case.

The jury questioned Layton Martens for 90 minutes. Deputies then whisked him through a crowd of newsmen outside. Less than an hour later the grand jury recessed until next Wednesday.

Dist. Judge Edward A. Hagerty Jr., in another action, refused to quash an arrest order against former New Orleans lounge operator Gordon Novel as a material witness in the investigation.

Novel has said Garrison's investigation, in which the district attorney charges a plot in New Orleans in the months preceding Kennedy's assassination, is a fraud.

Novel's attorney said he would appeal to the state supreme court.

The judge, following a one and a half-hour hearing, said however that he would consider reducing Novel's \$50,000 bond if Novel returns to the jurisdiction

of the court. The judge said he might even release Novel on his own cognizance if the witness returns.

Attorney Steve Plotkin asked Haggerty to quash the arrest warrant on grounds that Novel had never been properly subpoenaed by the grand jury and that Garrison's office had followed the wrong procedure in requesting the arrest.

Novel left New Orleans early last week shortly before the grand jury attempted to subpoena him for the assassination investigation. He has since been reported in several different sections of the nation.

Criminal Sheriff Louis Heyd Jr. testified during the hearing that his men were not able to serve the subpoena on Novel the night prior to the grand jury meeting.

Garrison Wednesday praised author Mark Lane, who Tuesday praised Garrison. The district attorney said Lane's book "Rush to Judgment" was "a good book that did a lot of good." The book was critical of the Warren Commission's investigation and report.