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--URGENT--

COLUMBUS, OHIO, APRIL 1 (AP)-GORDON NOVEL, WANTED IN NEW ORLEANS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROBE OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION, WAS ARRESTED TODAY IN SUBURBAN GAHANNA.

GAHANNA MAYOR PAUL VAN AUKEN SAID NOVEL, 29-YEAR-OLD FORMER NEW ORLEANS NIGHT CLUB OPERATOR, WAS SEIZED ON A STREET IN THAT SMALL COMMUNITY, ON A WARRANT ISSUED BY LOUISIANA AUTHORITIES.

"IT WAS A MATTER OF RECOGNITION," VAN AUKEN SAID IN EXPLAINING THAT HIS OFFICE RECEIVED WORD THAT NOVEL MIGHT BE IN GAHANNA. HE WOULD NOT SAY FROM WHERE THAT WORD CAME.

VAN AUKEN SAID HE CONTACTED THE NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON, WHO IS CONDUCTING THE ASSASSINATION PROBE, EARLIER TODAY "ABOUT OUR BELIEF THAT NOVEL WAS HERE." HE SAID A WARRANT WAS ISSUED FOR NOVEL'S ARREST, RELAYED TO GAHANNA POLICE THROUGH THE OHIO HIGHWAY PATROL.

THE ARREST WAS MADE AT 4:45 P.M., VAN AUKEN SAID. NOVEL WAS NOT ARMED AND OFFERED NO RESISTANCE.

SOON AFTER BEING LODGED IN JAIL, NOVEL ISSUED A STATEMENT. POLICE DISTRIBUTED THE ORIGINAL COPY TO NEWSMEN. IT READ IN PART:

"I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE CHIEF ROBERT F. BRANDON OF THE GAHANNA POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE SUBURB OF COLUMBUS, OHIO, IN HIS AP-
PREHENSION OF MYSELF. HIS OFFICE AND HIS MEN ARE TO BE PRAISED
IN DOING WHAT THE SUPPOSED MASTER CRIME SOLVER (CRIME SOLVER IN CAPS)
AND CARDIFF GIANT (CAP C. G), MR. JIM GARRISON WITH ALL OF HIS POLICE
STATE INQUISITION (POLICE STATE INQUISITION IN CAPS) POWER, MONEY,
INTIMIDATION AND HARASSMENT COULDN'T DO. MY ATTORNEYS WILL FIGHT
EXTRADITION IF NECESXAR TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. . . "

HE WAS BOOKED AT COLUMBUS CITY PRISON FOR INVESTIGATION AS A FUGITIVE FROM LOUISIANA. HE HAD \$86.50 WITH HIM WHEN ARRESTED, POLICE RECORDS SHOWED.

BEFORE HE WAS BROUGHT INTO THE JAIL, POLICE CLEARED THE HALLS, EXCEPT FOR A FEW NEWSMEN.

CHIEF BRANDON SAID THAT, IN THE POLICE CAR, NOVEL HAD ASKED THAT HE WALK IN FRONT OF HIM AND ANOTHER OFFICER BEHIND HIM.

"DON'T LET THIS TURN INTO ANOTHER DALLAS," BRANDON QUOTED NOVEL AS SAYING, AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE SHOOTING IN THE DALLAS POLICE STATION OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD TOW DAYS AFTER THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

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NOVEL, WHO WAS HELD UNDER ~~\$55,000~~ ^{\$10,000} BOND SET IN LOUISIANA, TOLD POLICE HIS FIANCEE, ABBY MULLIGAN, LIVES IN COLUMBUS (226 OAKLAND ST.), AND THAT HE HAD PLANNED TO SETTLE HERE.

BRANDON'S SAID NOVEL HAD GIVEN MISS MULLIGAN AN ENGAGEMENT RING IN RECENT DAYS, AND THAT HE WAS WITH HER FATHER WHEN ARRESTED IN A CAR IN FRONT OF AN APARTMENT HE HAD RENTED HERE.

GARRISON OBTAINED A WARRANT FOR NOVEL'S ARREST LAST WEEK AS A MATERIAL WITNESS IN THE INVESTIGATION.

FRIDAY, HE TELEGRAPHED MONTREAL, CANADA, WITH AN ARREST WARRANT THAT HIS OFFICE SAID "MAY OR MAY NOT BE RELATED" TO THE ASSASSINATION PROBE.

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THE NEW CHARGE ACCUSED NOVEL OF CONSPIRING WITH DAVID W. FERRIE TO COMMIT SIMPLE BURGLARY OF A MUNITIONS DUMP IN HOUMA, ABOUT 40 MILES SOUTHWEST OF NEW ORLEANS.

GARRISON HAS ALLEGED THAT FERRIE, LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND CLAY L. SHAW PLOTTED IN MID-SEPTEMBER 1963 TO KILL PRESIDENT KENNEDY. OSWALD AND FERRIE ARE DEAD. SHAW, 54, A RETIRED NEW ORLEANS EXECUTIVE, HAS BEEN INDICTED ON A CHARGE OF CONSPIRING TO KILL THE PRESIDENT.

NOVEL LEFT NEW ORLEANS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO JUST BEFORE A SECOND SUBPOENA WAS ISSUED FOR HIM TO APPEAR BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

HE TURNED UP IN COLUMBUS ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO AND TOLD NEWSMEN AT THAT TIME HE WAS AFRAID TO GO BACK FOR FURTHER GRAND JURY TESTIMONY. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT RETURN WITHOUT A GUARANTEE OF IMMUNITY FROM "HARRASSMENT."

HE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY CONSPIRACY AND SAID HE KNEW CLAY SHAW "BUT NOT IN CONNECTION WITH THIS." NOVEL TOLD NEWSMEN HERE THEN HE ALSO "INDIRECTLY" KNEW "A DAVID FERRIE."

WHEN HE LEFT TOWN THE NIGHT OF MARCH 22, HE LEFT A NOTE IN HIS HOTEL ROOM READING: "DUE TO PRESSURE FROM NEW ORLEANS, I HADKTO LEAVE. WILL PROVE MY STATEMENT IN CHICAGO IN DUE COURSE. THIS IS OFF THE RECORD. NO FURTHER COMMENT."

GAHANNA'S MAYOR WOULD NOT SAY HOW LONG AUTHORITIES THERE BELIEVED NOVEL WAS IN TOWN.

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IN NEW ORLEANS, SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR BILL GURVICH OF GARRISON'S STAFF SAID NOVEL WALKED INTO A POLICE TRAP WHEN HE RETURNED TO AN

APARTMENT HE HAD BEEN KEEPING IN GAHANNA.

"OFFICERS BEGAN A STAKEOUT AROUND THE APARTMENT EARLY TODAY AFTER WE ALERTED THEM THAT NOVEL WAS LIVING IN THE APARTMENT," GURVICH SAID, ADDING, "I LEARNED OF THE APARTMENT THROUGH A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE."

NOVEL, WAS CARRYING TWO TINY FOUNTAIN PEN-TYPE TEAR GAS GUNS UP HIS SLEEVES WHEN ARRESTED, GURVICH SAID, BUT DID NOT OFFER RESISTANCE.

"IF HE WAIVES EXTRADITION, WE WILL RETURN HIM MONDAY," GURVICH SAID. "IF NOVEL FIGHTS EXTRADITION, WE WILL BRING HIM BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE IS ENTITLED TO AN EXTRADITION HEARING, AT WHICH THE JUDGE WOULD DECIDE WHETHER WE HAVE SUFFICIENT CAUSE TO EXTRADITE HIM. THEN WE WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE OHIO GOVERNOR."

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