

GOV. RHODES

SEEKS

TO LIMIT

NOVEL QUIZ

Asks No Tie-in to JFK Plot

Gov. James Rhodes of Ohio has asked assurances that the extradition of Gordon Novel from Ohio on a burglary conspiracy charge not include plans for questioning the wanted man in the Kennedy assassination probe.

The Ohio governor's request drew an immediate reaction from Garrison who called it "one of the most incredible things I've ever seen."

"I have never heard of anything like this before," the New Orleans DA declared. "The obstacles they have put in front of us are amazing."

The request for assurances on this point were in addition to an earlier letter from Rhodes to Gov. John J. McKeithen, rejecting the extradition on the grounds of insufficient material.

At Garrison's office here, meanwhile, a newly subpoenaed witness who works at the same coffee company which employed accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald in the summer of 1963 brushed aside reporters' questions and was closeted with Asst. Dist. Atty. James Alcock.

THE SUBPENAED WITNESS, Julius J. Oswald of 8908 Wingate, arrived at the DA's office shortly before his scheduled 11 a. m. appearance. He was wearing a grey suit and appeared to be in his early 40s.

Oswald refused again today to answer newsmen's questions. Asked if he were "Mr. Oswald," he replied: "I wouldn't know him if I saw him."

Oswald asked a receptionist to permit him to sit behind a railing which fences an inner reception area from the main DA's waiting room.

Asked if he were Julius Oswald, he replied, "I'm here on business," and waited silently until he was ushered into Alcock's office.

Oswald remained in Alcock's office about 45 minutes and left by way of a back elevator shortly before noon, avoiding waiting reporters.

NOVEL'S EXTRADITION

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—States-Item Photo.
JULIUS J. OSWALD

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papers were returned to the state and forwarded to New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, who has been seeking to get the fugitive witness returned to the state in connection with his extensive investigation of President Kennedy's slaying.

John M. McElroy, assistant to the governor of Ohio, said in a letter to McKeithen dated April 24, three days after the first letter returning the extradition papers, that he had been in touch with the district attorney's office by phone.

"Persistent press reports in Ohio papers state that Dist. Atty. Garrison is seeking the extradition of Gordon Novel in order to have him available for questioning or as a witness in the grand jury investigation of events leading to the assassination of the late President Kennedy," McElroy wrote.

"It would be helpful if your letter of transmittal of your requisition could contain a statement expressly disclaiming the foregoing as the purpose of the extradition.

"If Dist. Atty. Garrison is seeking testimony from Gordon Novel, he could avail himself of Ohio's uniform out-of-state witness act, which has also been adopted by Louisiana."

M'ELROY SAID he had been in touch with Garrison's assistant, Alcock, and advised him that Gov. Rhodes wanted the additional assurances on the questioning of Novel.

Alcock confirmed today that the DA's office has received a copy of the letter from Gov. Rhodes. He said no decision has been made on what will be done in reply to the Ohio governor's request.

William Redmann, chief counsel to Gov. McKeithen, said that the Louisiana chief executive has been in touch by telephone with Gov. Rhodes about the extradition matter, but that apparently no issues had been resolved.

He said all papers and letters are being sent to Garrison for disposition.

Thus far, neither the governor's office nor the attorney general's office has received anything other than the original extradition papers which were returned. Garrison's office has not refiled with the state for extradition of Novel.

THE DISTRICT attorney's office in Terrebonne Parish, where Novel is accused of burglary (rather than conspiracy as in New Orleans), has not submitted extradition papers to the state.

(over)



Procedure for extraditing persons from another state includes approval of the form by the attorney general's office, preparation of the documents by the secretary of state, and signing of the documents by the governor or acting governor.

Redmann said that if Garrison wants to question Novel about the Kennedy probe, it may not be sufficient to rely on the out-of-state witnesses act to bring him back to Louisiana where he would enjoy certain immunities.

In addition to the questioning phase, McElroy also informed the governor's office that Novel is now officially under bail from the municipal court of Columbus.

He indicated that jurisdiction over Novel has passed from the chief of police of Gahanna, Ohio, where he was arrested, to the chief of police of Columbus.

JULIUS OSWALD was one of two men named Oswald subpoenaed yesterday as Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation continued.

Last night, Julius Oswald refused to tell reporters whether he had known Lee

Harvey Oswald when the accused assassin worked at Standard Coffee Co. here shortly before Kennedy's murder.

The other subpoenaed witness, William S. Oswald, 2704 Wytchwood, Metairie, said he believes his entrance into the inquiry may have resulted from a case of mistaken identity.

Questioned yesterday, William Oswald told reporters outside the district attorney's office that Lee Harvey Oswald used his name and address as a reference with Standard Coffee when he applied for a job there in early 1963.

HE SAID HE believes Lee Harvey Oswald really meant to use the name of the witness' uncle, another William Oswald, who lives at 136 Elmeor pl., Metairie.

The uncle, reached by telephone, said Lee Oswald visited him in the summer of 1963. He declined to answer further questions.

Although the subpoenaed William Oswald said he was questioned by the Secret Service after Kennedy's assassination, the Warren Commission report does not list him as a witness. Nor does it include his uncle or Julius Oswald.