

EBS1

NOVEL -- CO ASKED

NEW ORLEANS (AP)--GORDON NOVEL, WANTED AS A MATERIAL WITNESS IN DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PROBE, WAS QUOTED MONDAY AS SAYING HE WAS HIT BY FLYING GLASS SUNDAY WHEN SEVERAL BULLETS STRUCK A TRUCK IN WHICH HE WAS SITTING IN NASHVILLE, TENN. HE SAID THE BULLETS MISSED HIM.

NOVEL DESCRIBED THE ALLEGED INCIDENT IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH A NEW ORLEANS MAN, WHO ASKED THAT HIS NAME NOT BE REVEALED.

THE 29-YEAR-OLD FORMER FRENCH QUARTER LOUNGE OPERATOR WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE WAS SITTING IN A PANEL TRUCK WITH A FRIEND OF 11 YEARS' STANDING, GARY EDWARDS OF WKDA RADIO IN NASHVILLE, WHEN THE SHOTS WERE FIRED. EDWARDS IS NEWS DIRECTOR OF THE STATION.

NASHVILLE POLICE SAID THEY WERE NOT NOTIFIED OF THE ALLEGED INCIDENT UNTIL 14 HOURS LATER.

NOVEL AND EDWARDS LEFT NASHVILLE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT. IN HIS TELEPHONE CALL HERE, NOVEL DID NOT DISCLOSE HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS.

WKDA PRESIDENT CHARLES F. WALKER TOLD POLICE THAT NOVEL HAD AGREED TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION THAT WOULD "BLOW THE NEW ORLEANS INVESTIGATION WIDE OPEN."

NOVEL CURRENTLY IS FIGHTING EXTRADITION FROM COLUMBUS, OHIO, TO NEW ORLEANS, WHERE HE IS WANTED AS A MATERIAL WITNESS IN GARRISON'S PROBE INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY. NOVEL SOLD HIS LOUNGE HERE AND WENT TO COLUMBUS SOON AFTER GARRISON'S PROBE BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

NASHVILLE AUTHORITIES SAID GLASS IN THE LEFT DOOR OF THE TRUCK WAS SHATTERED AND THERE WERE FOUR INDENTATIONS MADE BY BULLETS ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE TRUCK'S PANELING.

A NASHVILLE POLICE OFFICER, WHO DECLINED USE OF HIS NAME, EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO SHOOT NOVEL. THE OFFICER SAID HE BASED HIS DOUBT ON WHAT HE CALLED DISCREPANCIES IN VARIOUS ACCOUNTS OF THE INCIDENT.

KK10PCD MAY 22