

'PLOT' WITNESS SUES GARRISON IN SOUTH

NEW ORLEANS, May 24 (AP)—Gordon Novel filed suit Wednesday seeking up to \$50-million in damages from District Attorney Jim Garrison and the private group financing Mr. Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Mr. Novel, a 29-year-old former French Quarter lounge owner, has been termed an important witness in the investigation by Mr. Garrison.

The suit, filed in Federal District Court here lists as defendants Mr. Garrison and members of Truth and Consequences, a private organization

formed to finance the inquiry.

The suit asks \$10-million in damages from the district attorney and \$1-million each from members of the group. Truth and Consequences was formed in March by about 50 businessmen who garred to each put up \$100 a week as long as necessary.

The suit charges that Mr. Garrison's statements and accusations against Mr. Novel had ruined his "reputation as a man of honesty, honor and probity."

Mr. Novel is free on \$10,000 bond posted at Columbus, Ohio, where he was arrested April 1 on a warrant from Mr. Garrison charging him with conspiring to burglarize an explosives bunker at Houma, La., in 1961.