

Evening

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—Leader and Press Staff Photo
Awaiting their plane for a return trip to New Orleans and a conference with District Attorney Jim Garrison, author Mark Lane (left) and Garrison assistant Richard V. Burnes sit in the lobby of Springfield Municipal Airport last night. The two were in town for a news conference, where, along with Marshfield attorney John Hosmer, they revealed a possible link between an inmate at the U.S. Medical Center here and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Assassination Questions Raised

Former SS Man's Story Told Here

The strange case of a former Secret Service agent now imprisoned at the U.S. Medical Center here who yesterday surfaced as an alleged link in the so-called Kennedy assassination puzzle has "a mousey touch about it," a highly-placed federal official said today.

The story of Abraham W. Bolden, a 32-year-old former guardian of the Kennedy family as a member of the White House detail of the Secret Service, was sketchily related at a hastily-called news conference yesterday afternoon by Marshfield attorney John Hosmer; avowed Warren Commission critic and author Mark Lane, and attorney-investigator on New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison's staff, Richard V. Burnes.

Former agent Bolden, the trio said, told them the Secret Ser-

vice agent had served a one-year jail term at the hands of his Secret Service superiors.

Bolden was convicted two years ago in Chicago on charges he attempted to "sell secrets," author Lane said. The only two witnesses against Bolden at the trial were known criminals and one has since admitted publicly that he perjured himself at the request of the Secret Service in an attempt to "frame" Bolden, Lane charged.

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Today, a source with access to

seemed to be well-grounded.

However, if Bolden's conviction was, in fact a "blackball job" by the Secret Service, it was because Bolden "leaked" information concerning the alleged "drinking and partying" reportedly carried on by Secret Service men assigned to protect the President the night before the assassination. It was not, the source contends, an attempt by the Secret Service to cover up an assassination plot.

Bolden's supposed plight rose to public view through a roughly-drawn plea for a writ of habeas corpus filed by Bolden early this year in the western Missouri district court of federal Judge William R. Collinson, formerly of Springfield and now presiding at his Kansas City bench.

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"Although it was imperfectly drawn up, it looked like grounds for a court hearing," Collinson said today of Bolden's original filing.

The judge confirmed he had asked attorney Hosmer last June to represent Bolden for the purpose of "redrawing the papers in proper form." Collinson added that his office is still awaiting Hosmer's amendment to the original filing, if one is to be filed.

"It might be that Mr. Hosmer would decide to return to Illinois to appeal the original con-

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viction," Collinson suggested. "There really is little my court could do in the case, due to the circumstances."

In discussing the matter Nov. 25 with a Leader and Press reporter, Hosmer was asked why he did not contact Bolden in regard to the testimony Bolden wanted to give to the Warren Commission.

Hosmer said he was not interested in that aspect of the case. "All I want to do is to get Bolden out of prison," he stated at that time.

At yesterday's news conference, little mention was made of Bolden's plea for release through the courts.

Instead, Lane concentrated on the identical information he said has been supplied independently by Bolden and through Jim Garrison's New Orleans investigations.

"For months I have known that Garrison has sought a man who was involved in the conspiracy to assassinate the President," Lane, who is now an official member of Garrison's staff, said. "Hearing Bolden state that the same man evidently had been sought and followed by the Secret Service in the assassination conspiracy well before Nov. 22, 1963, can only add to the validity of Garrison's charges."

Lane said Bolden told of a plot discovered in Chicago a short time before Kennedy was to visit there during the fall of 1963. At least one man implicated by the Secret Service in the plot was shadowed through the streets of Chicago, Lane said Bolden told him, and it is this same man who Garrison has discovered implicated in Dallas.

"It is not a name known to the public," Lane said, "and the fact that Bolden and Garrison could come up with the same name without any contact with each other is more than a coincidence."

Lane said he was not at liberty to disclose any details concerning Bolden's information at this time.

Lane and Burnes have returned to New Orleans "to report our findings to Garrison."

"And," Lane added, "I wouldn't be at all surprised if Mr. Garrison decided to come here to visit with Mr. Bolden in person."

Meanwhile, Bolden continues as a "camp prisoner," helping with maintenance at the Medical Center, awaiting possible legal or other action concerning his case.