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Bartender Denies Any JFK Link

Mixed Defiance To Garrison

Special to The Examiner

KERNVILLE (Kern County) — Bartender Lorah E. (Skip) Hall, a former Cuban guerilla fighter and gun-runner, flatly denies New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's charge that he was "in a unique position to observe activities related to the assassination" of President Kennedy.

Hall, 47, was subpoenaed by Garrison to appear in New Orleans Feb. 1-2, along with Lawrence J Howard Jr., 32, of El Monte, Calif., and Thomas Beckham, 27, of Omaha, Neb.

"The only thing I have to say is that these charges are absolutely false," Hall said here yesterday.

IN CALIFORNIA

He said that on the day of Kennedy's assassination he was at home in Monterey Park, Calif., where he then lived.

But he was not entirely critical of Harrison, saying that he thought he might be on the right track in his investigation.

"What I'd like to say," Hall said, "is that it's a damned shame that a man like Garrison has to do the work that the government should have done in the first place.

"It's a shame that a man with axes to grind and a name to make for himself should do what an impartial board should be doing."

Hall said, however, that he will force Garrison to extradite him. "But I'm going to go because I think it's time the American people found out the whole truth about the Kennedy assassination."

QUIT CASTRO

Hall characterized himself as a staunch anti-Communist. He was a member of Fidel Castro's July 26th movement in Cuba in 1958 and early 1959, but said he quit and joined an anti-Castro group when he learned the Cuban leader was a Communist.

He was jailed by Castro but later was allowed to return to the U.S. After that, he said, he smuggled guns and medical supplies to anti-Castro elements in Cuba.