

Novel will submit to Garrison subpoena

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NEW ORLEANS, LA., Mar. 4 (LNS)—Gordon Novel, long sought as a material witness in Jim Garrison's Kennedy Assassination probe, will finally return to New Orleans to testify after a year of ignoring and fighting subpoenas.

Novel was first subpoenaed in April, 1967 on two grounds. He was wanted by Houma, Louisiana authorities for questioning regarding a 1961 munitions burglary and he was wanted by Garrison for questioning regarding the assassination.

Novel left Louisiana for Columbus, Ohio where he fought the subpoena. He called the Houma burglary "the most patriotic burglary in history," and explained that the CIA had placed the munitions in a Schlumberger Well Co. warehouse so that Novel and others could take them out. Garrison has said that David Ferrie, Sergio Arcacha Smith, and Layton Martens were on the raid with Novel and that the munitions were deposited in various spots around Louisiana, including Guy Bannis-

ter's office at 544 Camp St. That office was used by several anti-Castro groups and some possible conspirators frequented the building.

Arcacha Smith is now in Dallas, Texas where he successfully fought a subpoena to return to New Orleans. Layton Martens is under indictment for perjury because he denied knowing Novel. Ferrie, named in the indictment of Clay Shaw as a co-conspirator, died mysteriously a few days after Garrison's investigation became public.

Novel contested the subpoenas. Governor Rhodes of Ohio told Garrison that he would return Novel to talk about the Houma raid if Garrison guaranteed not to discuss the Kennedy assassination with him. Garrison refused to

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make such a deal.

Novel denounced the Garrison investigation and vowed to sue Garrison and Playboy Magazine for \$10,000,000 damages. From safety in Columbus, he kept a close eye on anything that happened in Ohio regarding the assassination. When Mort Sahl played an engagement at a Columbus night club, Novel was in the audience almost every night, taking notes. When Mark Lane spoke in Columbus, Novel was there.

Finally, in October, Garrison agreed not to question Novel about the Kennedy assassination and Novel came to testify about the Houma burglary.

Last month, Garrison again subpoenaed Novel at the same time he subpoenaed Allen Dulles, former head of the CIA. Garrison said that Novel was present on No Name Key, where several key individuals were training.

Today, Franklin County, Ohio, Judge Henry Holden ordered Novel held for New Orleans authorities. The judge ordered Novel to return after Garrison gives him a pledge of immunity from arrest. Novel will testify before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury March 7 and 8.