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DAYTON, OHIO, APRIL 18 (AP)-NEW ORLEANS DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON'S INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY "IS FICTION," GORDON NOVEL SAID TODAY IN A BYLINED ACCOUNT COPYRIGHTED BY THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS.

IN A STORY AS TOLD TO NEWS REPORTER ROBERT ENDICOTT, NOVEL SAID, "GARRISON CAME UP WITH THIS IDEA AFTER THE WARREN REPORT CAME OUT AND ALL THE BOOKS AGAINST IT WERE BEING WRITTEN. GARRISON SEES THIS AS PUTTING HIM IN WASHINGTON...BIG POLITICS."

NOVEL, WANTED BY GARRISON AS A WITNESS IN THE ASSASSINATION INQUIRY AND ARRESTED IN THE COLUMBUS AREA ON A LOUISIANA CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT BURGLARY, CONTENDED GARRISON WANTS HIM RETURNED TO NEW ORLEANS BECAUSE "I KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT HIM."

"THE WHOLE GARRISON INVESTIGATION THING IS FICTION. I KNOW THE FULL STORY FROM WORKING AS THE PROSECUTOR'S SECURITY CHIEF."

NOVEL TOLD AGAIN OF BEING EMPLOYED BY BOTH GARRISON AND LOUISIANA GOV. JOHN J. MCKEITHEN BECAUSE OF A DEVICE HE INVENTED TO DETECT ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING EQUIPMENT.

AT ONE POINT IN THE STORY, NOVEL SAID, "I THINK GARRISON WILL EXPOSE SOME CIA (CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY) OPERATIONS IN LOUISIANA." HE DID NOT AMPLIFY THIS STATEMENT IN THE NEWS STORY.

NOVEL SAID GARRISON "APPROACHED ME ABOUT THE PLAN (FOR THE INVESTIGATION) AND ASKED ME TO JOIN. I REFUSED."

HE SAID, "I LEFT NEW ORLEANS BECAUSE GARRISON THREATENED TO INVOLVE ME IN THE CONSPIRACY AFTER I REFUSED TO CONTINUE MY JOB FOR THE PROSECUTOR."

NOVEL IS FREE ON BOND FROM COLUMBUS PENDING ATTEMPTS TO EXTRADITE HIM TO LOUISIANA ON THE BURGLARY CHARGE.

EXTRADITION PAPERS ASKING NOVEL'S RETURN TO LOUISIANA ARRIVED AT THE OFFICE OF OHIO GOV. JAMES A. RHODES TUESDAY FROM THE OFFICE OF GOV. MCKEITH MCKEITHEN. IT IS NOW UP TO RHODES TO BEGIN THE EXTRADITION PROCESS.

IN COLUMBUS, NOVEL WAS CALLED TO BE A WITNESS BEFORE A STATE SENATE COMMITTEE CONSIDERING BILLS TO PROHIBIT WIRETAPPING AND ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING ON PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS.

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