

*u story*

---

## Ohio Frees 'Witness' Sought by Garrison; Extradition Dropped

---

COLUMBUS, Ohio, July 3 (AP) — Gordon Novel, once described as a "most important and material witness" in the New Orleans investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy, was relieved of legal ties here today because New Orleans officials indicated they were no longer interested in him, officials said.

Municipal Court Judge William T. Gillie dismissed three extradition cases against the 29-year-old former night club owner.

Judge Gillie acted after spokesmen for the suburban Gahanna police department said District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans did not reply to phone calls and telegrams asking about his intentions to obtain custody of Mr. Novel.

It was Mr. Garrison who had described Mr. Novel as a "most important and material witness" in the inquiry.

Mr. Novel's attorney, Jerry Weiner, in arguing for dismissal of three "vague" affidavits, cited a court decision here two months ago by Judge Bruce Jenkins.

Judge Jenkins said the period for extraditing Mr. Novel was 60 days and asserted that if "they [Louisiana authorities] don't do something by that time they are out of business."

Mr. Weiner said there were no valid papers in the Governor's office as of last Friday to legally detain Mr. Novel, who has been free on \$10,000 bond.

He said the extradition papers sent here had failed to establish whether Mr. Novel was wanted as a material witness or a fugitive. The papers only mention of specific charges alleged that Mr. Novel had conspired or participated in the burglary of a munitions dump at Houma, La.

Picked up by Gahanna policemen May 1 on that charge, Mr. Novel insisted that it was trumped up and that Mr. Garrison was seeking his return to New Orleans for "use" in Mr. Garrison's assassination inquiry. Mr. Novel has maintained that the Garrison investigation is a fraud.

---