

A71

PROBE 400

BY JOHN S. LANG

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS, LA., MARCH 24 (AP)-AUTHORITIES SOUGHT TODAY A FORMER FRENCH QUARTER BAR OWNER AS A MATERIAL WITNESS IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE MATTHEW S. BRANIFF ISSUED A WARRANT FOR THE ARREST OF GORDON NOVEL, 29, WHO WAS LAST REPORTED IN COLUMBUS, OHIO, AND WAS SAID TO BE SEEKING SANCTUARY IN CHICAGO. BRANIFF SET BAIL AT \$50,000.

THE JUDGE ACTED AFTER DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON FILED AN AFFIDAVIT IN COURT SAYING HE HAD GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT NOVEL WAS A "MOST IMPORTANT" WITNESS WHO WAS NECESSARY TO THE GRAND JURY'S INVESTIGATION.

A SUBPOENA HAS CALLED FOR NOVEL TO APPEAR WEDNESDAY BEFORE THE GRAND JURY. BUT NOVEL'S ATTORNEY, STEVE PLOTKIN, SAID HIS CLIENT WAS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., THEN ON PERSONAL BUSINESS.

NOVEL POPPED UP IN COLUMBUS THE SAME DAY AND SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO RETURN TO NEW ORLEANS UNLESS GUARANTEED FREEDOM FROM "HARASSMENT."

THE AFFIDAVIT REQUESTING THE ARREST ORDER SAID NOVEL SOLD HIS JAMAICAN VILLAGE BAR ON THE EDGE OF THE FRENCH QUARTER AND LEFT THE CITY WHILE UNDER SUBPOENA, STATING PUBLICLY HE HAD NO INTENTION OF RETURNING. THE AFFIDAVIT SAID NOVEL SHOULD BE PLACED UNDER SIZEABLE BOND OR THE GRAND JURY "WILL BE DEPRIVED OF A MOST IMPORTANT AND MATERIAL WITNESS."

MEANWHILE, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SUBPOENAED LAYTON MARTENS, WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED HERE THREE DAYS AFTER THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION AND HELD FOR "INVESTIGATION OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES," TO APPEAR BEFORE THE GRAND JURY NEXT WEDNESDAY.

AT THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION, MARTENS, 24, ROOMED WITH DAVID W. FERRIE AT 3330 LOUISIANA AVENUE, WHERE GARRISON SAID A DEATH PLOT WAS HATCHED. FERRIE DIED LAST MONTH.

MARTENS, FERRIE AND ROLAND BEAUBOEUF, A 19-YEAR-OLD AT THE TIME WHO ALSO ROOMED WITH THEM, WERE ARRESTED BY GARRISON'S MEN AT THE REQUEST OF THE SECRET SERVICE AND FBI ON NOV. 25, 1963--THREE DAYS AFTER KENNEDY WAS KILLED.

FERRIE WAS BOOKED FOR BEING A FUGITIVE FROM TEXAS. POLICE RECORDS SHOW MARTENS AND BEAUBOEUF WERE BOOKED "RELATIVE TO VAGRANCY, UNDER INVESTIGATION OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES..."

ALL THREE MEN WERE RELEASED THE NEXT DAY.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY YESTERDAY ALSO SUBPOENAED DONALD DOOTY, 35, FOR QUESTIONING ABOUT THE CASE.

THE CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE CASE, CLAY L. SHAW, LEFT FOR A PLEASURE TRIP TO THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST YESTERDAY FOLLOWING HIS INDICTMENT BY THE GRAND JURY WEDNESDAY FOR CONSPIRING TO MURDER KENNEDY. SHAW, THE ONLY MAN CHARGED SO FAR IN THE PROBE, WILL GO ON TRIAL HERE AT AN UNDETERMINED DATE.

BJ611AES

NEW ORLEANS PROBE A71 ADD (240): STATES."

THE CONNECTION OF NOVEL TO THE KENNEDY PROBE HAS NEVER BEEN DISCLOSED. WHEN HE CHECKED OUT OF HIS COLUMBUS HOTEL, HE LEFT A NOTE READING:

"DUE TO PRESSURE FROM NEW ORLEANS, I HAVE TO LEAVE. WILL PROVE MY STATEMENT IN CHICAGO IN DUE COURSE. THIS IS OFF THE RECORD. NO FURTHER COMMENT."

NOVEL WAS FIRST SUBPOENAED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE GRAND JURY MARCH 16. HE SAID THEN HE THOUGHT GARRISON WANTED TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT ACTIVITIES "RUING 1961 WHICH ARE RELATED TO MR. SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH."

ARCACHA, WHO NOW LIVES IN DALLAS, SAID HE NEVER HEARD OF NOVEL. ARCACHA HEADED AN ANTI-CASTRO GROUP IN NEW ORLEANS IN 1961 WHICH HAD OFFICES ON CAMP STREET. SOME OF THE PRO-CASTRO "FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA" LEAFLETS PASSED OUT BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD HERE IN 1963 CARRIED THE SAME CAMP STREET ADDRESS.

THE WARREN COMMISSION NAMED OSWALD AS THE LONE ASSASSIN OF KENNEDY. GARRISON HAS SAID HE WILL PROVE THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH WAS THE RESULT OF A CONSPIRACY BORN IN NEW ORLEANS.

NOVEL SAID HE KNEW SHAW, "BUT NOT IN CONNECTION WITH THIS." HE SAID HE KNEW A DAVE FERRIE "INDIRECTLY."

GARRISON'S PRIME WITNESS IN THE PRELIMINARY HEARING FOR SHAW WAS PERRY R. RUSSO, A BATON ROUGE INSURANCE MAN WHO TESTIFIED HE HEARD SHAW, FERRIE AND OSWALD PLOTTING IN FERRIE'S APARTMENT TO ASSASSINATE KENNEDY.

FERRIE, A FORMER AIRLINE PILOT, DIED FEB. 22. THE CORONER ATTRIBUTED THE DEATH TO NATURAL CAUSES.

MARTENS, THE MAN SOUGHT BY GARRISON'S OFFICE AS A MATERIAL WITNESS, TOLD A REPORTER FOR NEW ORLEANS TELEVISION STATION WDSU TWO WEEKS AGO THAT HE HAD BEEN QUESTIONED TWICE BY GARRISON'S INVESTIGATORS RECENTLY AND HAD UNDERGONE A LIE DETECTOR TEST.

MARTENS SAID HE FIRST MET FERRIE THROUGH THE CIVIL AIR PATROL AND THEY BECAME FRIENDS. HE SAID HE BELIEVED HE KNEW ALL OF FERRIE'S FRIENDS AND HE HAD NEVER HEARD HIM MENTION CLAY SHAW OR CLAY BERTRAND.