

# JFK Prober Seeks Bar Owner Arrest

By The Associated Press and  
United Press International

NEW ORLEANS Authorities here asked Chicago police today to find and arrest Gordon Novel, former French Quarter bar owner sought as a material witness in District Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe.

Novel, 29, was reported in Columbus, Ohio, yesterday and said he was going to Chicago.

His attorney, Steven R. Plotkin, said today he knows Novel's whereabouts but refused to divulge the information. The lawyer said he intends to file motions on behalf of Novel Monday.

Criminal Court Judge Matthew S. Braniff issued a warrant for Novel's arrest at

Garrison's request. The district attorney termed Novel a "most important" witness to the grand jury's investigation.

Novel left New Orleans before sheriff's deputies could serve a subpoena directing him to appear before the jury Wednesday.

Braniff set bond for Novel at \$50,000.

Before he dropped from sight in Columbus, Novel said he would not return here unless guaranteed freedom from "harassment."

Meanwhile, the latest figure thrust into the case maintains he never heard the name of Lee Harvey Oswald until Nov. 22, 1963.

Layton Martens, 24, a former roommate of one of the alleged plotters against Pres-

ident Kennedy, openly challenges statements made by Garrison's star witness, Perry Russo.

Russo, 25, a Baton Rouge, La., insurance salesman, testified he heard Clay Shaw, the late David W. Ferrie, and Oswald plot to kill Kennedy.

Shaw has been indicted for conspiracy.

But Martens, commenting in a TV interview after he was subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury next week, said he shared an apartment with Ferrie and he never had heard of Oswald until the assassination.

It was this same apartment in which Russo allegedly heard the plotters.

Russo had testified he did not know Martens.

But Martens says he knew Russo and the latter had a personal grudge against Ferrie.