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Another Angle in 'JFK Plot' Probe

Compiled from AP and UPI
NEW ORLEANS — The latest figure thrust into Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination investigation maintains that he never heard the name Lee Harvey Oswald until Nov. 22, 1963.

Layton Martens, 24, a former roommate of one of the alleged plotters against President Kennedy, openly chal-

lenges statements made by Garrison's star witness, Perry R. Russo.

Russo, 25, a Baton Rouge, La., insurance salesman, testified at the preliminary hearing that he heard Clay Shaw, the late David W. Ferrie, and Oswald plot to kill Kennedy. Shaw was subsequently indicted for conspiracy.

But Martens, commenting

in a taped television interview released last night after he was subpoenaed to appear before the Orleans Parish (County) Grand Jury next week, said he shared an apartment with Ferrie and he had never 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 in the television interview, taped two weeks ago by WDSU-TV, Martens said he knew Russo and that the latter had a personal grudge against Ferrie.

Meanwhile, authorities sought a former French Quarter bar owner as a material witness in the investigation.

Criminal Court Judge Matthew S. Braniff issued a warrant yesterday 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 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.