

New Orleans D.A. Asks More Arrests

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy reached into Virginia and Nebraska today with arrest orders for two key witnesses who have challenged Garrison's findings.

And in Bismarck, N.D., an attorney, David R. Kroman, claiming to have documents proving President Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy, yesterday was committed to a mental institution after he testified of his alleged harassment.

Kroman, 43, one of 17 defendants in a \$3 million insurance fraud, told a U.S. District Court Judge he was forced off a highway yesterday morning as he drove toward Bismarck

with documents that "tend to prove or in some cases do prove that (Lee Harvey) Oswald did not assassinate Kennedy and that other persons did."

Judge Edward Devitt, hearing the case on a change of venue from Minneapolis, Minn., promptly declared a mistrial of Kroman's portion of the trial and ordered the defendant committed to the Federal Penal Hospital at Springfield, Mo., for mental examination.

"There is reasonable cause to believe that Kroman may be insane or otherwise so mentally incompetent that he is unable to assist in his own defense," Devitt said.

Kroman mouted the witness stand in his own defense yesterday and related how, while en route from Minneapolis in

a rented car, two other cars followed him.

As he neared Bismarck, Kroman said, one car drew abreast of his and the occupant pointed a pistol.

"I would either be shot or I would go off the road. I went off the road," Kroman said.

State Police found Kroman partially conscious, a loaded shotgun across his knees, at 4 a.m. police said Kroman alternately opened and closed his eyes, indicating the defendant was not fully conscious.

Kroman was taken to a local hospital where a doctor said he had suffered an apparent epileptic seizure.

New Orleans courts have ordered the arrest of Sandra Moffitt, now Lilly Mae McMaines, the wife of an Omaha, Neb., minister; and Gordon Novel, a lounge operator who says he has taken a lie detector test to prove that Garrison's investigation is a fraud. Latest reports said he was in Virginia.

The two former residents of New Orleans have challenged testimony by Garrison's top witness and apparently are also wanted by attorneys for alleged conspirator Clay L. Shaw.

Perry R. Russo, the state's star witness, testified at a preliminary hearing that he attended a party at the late David W. Ferrie's apartment with a "Sandy" Moffitt the night Shaw, Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly plotted the President's death.

The Orleans Parish (county) Grand Jury indicted Shaw for conspiracy in the case.