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Ferrie Roommate Takes Stand at JFK Plot Probe

NEW ORLEANS, March 29 (UPI)—Layton Martens, detained by the FBI and the Secret Service three days after the assassination of President Kennedy, testifies today before a Grand Jury hearing testimony in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation.

Martens, 24, has made statements contradicting information released in Garrison's probe of the assassination.

Martens was arrested Nov. 25, 1963, at the apartment of David W. Ferrie along with Ferrie and Alvin Beauboeauf, following their trip to Brownsville, Tex. They had left New Orleans the day of the assassination.

THREE CHECKED

New Orleans police records said all three were ordered held for the FBI and Secret Service for suspected "subversive activities" in connection with the assassination.

Martens said in a television interview made public last week that he was a roommate of Ferrie's during mid-September 1963, when the alleged conspiracy against Kennedy was being hatched. He said he never met any of the principals.

Two other persons with

statements contradictory to Garrison's were being sought today as material witnesses in the investigation.

WOMAN WITNESS

In Omaha, Neb., today, Mrs. Lillie Mae McMairnes, formerly known in Garrison's probe as Sandra Moffitt, was to tell a judge whether she would fight extradition back to Louisiana as a material witness.

Gordon Novel, 29, was the object of searches in Ohio, Virginia, Illinois, Missouri and possibly other states.

Attorneys for Novel were to ask Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty to set aside the warrant for Novel's arrest and quash the bond of \$50,000 set to assure his appearance before the Grand Jury.

AUTHOR'S VIEW

In another development Tuesday night, author Mark Lane, whose "Rush to Judgment" is a best seller, said after conferring with Garrison that Garrison would rock the nation when he disclosed his assassination case in a court trial.

Lane also said Garrison would show there was more than one gunman in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, and that Lee Harvey Oswald was not the one who fired the fatal shot.

'THREAT' PUZZLES GARRISON BACKER

By LESLIE H. WHITTEN

Herald-Examiner Washington Correspondent With Hearst Headline Service

WASHINGTON, March 29—District Attorney Jim Garrison's chief financial backer says Garrison told him even he—the backer—was not immune from indictment in the bizarre New Orleans "conspiracy" case.

Automobile distributor Willard E. Robertson acknowledged yesterday that Garrison asked him, "How would you like to be indicted?" But Robertson denied it was a threat. He called it a "mere statement of fact." Garrison could not be reached.

What made Garrison's alleged statement to Robertson unusual—in a case

already loaded with peculiarities—was that there has been no indication that Robertson was involved in any facet of the Kennedy assassination "conspiracy."

On the contrary, it was Robertson, as chairman of "Truth and Consequences, Inc."—a group of businessmen backing the probe—who donated \$2500 of his own money to keep the probe going. Since then, he has helped raise \$7000 more.

When reached yesterday, Robertson said his own secretary was typing thank-you letters to contributors for Garrison's signature. ✓