

# JFK Probe Witness Caught

## He Hid Out Near Police

COLUMBUS (Ohio) — (UPI) — Gordon Novel, a former nightclub operator wanted as a material witness in the investigation of the alleged Kennedy assassination plot, was taken into custody yesterday at nearby Gahanna.

Novel was taken to Columbus police headquarters and kept behind closed doors at the detective bureau.

A warrant was issued at New Orleans for his arrest after he left and unexpectedly turned up here March 22. He disappeared the next morning.

### 'A FRAUD'

District Attorney Jim Garrison wanted to question Novel about his knowledge of the slaying.

Novel has called Garrison's investigation "a fraud."

Novel had said earlier he would return to New Orleans only if Garrison promised him "freedom from harassment and immunity from him."

He was picked up under the New Orleans subpoena and booked at the detective headquarters, as a preliminary for his return to Louisiana.

Novel said he would fight extradition to New Orleans.

### ACTED ON TIP

Gahanna patrolman Charles Barnette said the department acted on a tip and discovered Novel was rooming in a house across the street from the police station.

Novel said he wished to remain outside his home state because he believed Garrison was conducting a "political, police state inquisition" in

his efforts to find other persons involved in the Dallas killing than Lee Oswald.

Before his flight north, Novel had talked to Garrison about the investigation. Novel said he helped Garrison all he could, and told him, "I don't believe you have a case."

Friday, Garrison issued a second arrest warrant for Novel, charging him with conspiring with the late David W. Ferrie and Sergio Arcacha Smith of Dallas to steal munitions from an oil field service firm in Houma, La., in 1961.

Smith, prior to the Bay of Pigs invasion, was a leader in the Democratic Revolutionary Front chapter in New Orleans, a group opposed to Communist dictator Fidel Castro of Cuba.