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JFK Probe Witness Delayed

NEW ORLEANS — (UPI) — Gordon Novel, a material witness in District Attorney Jim Garrison's probe of President Kennedy's assassination, is under arrest in Ohio today.

But his extradition to Louisiana may be delayed.

Novel, a former French Quarter nightclub operator, was arrested in Gahanna, Ohio, a Columbus suburb, Saturday.

Novel has called Garrison's investigation "the fraud of the century."

John Melroy, top aide to Ohio Gov. James Rhodes, said Louisiana is not a member of the Uniform Extradition Compact and it could be days or even weeks before Novel would be sent back to New Orleans.

New Orleans Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. said he understood Novel was held in jail over the weekend, and a possible fugitive bond would be set for him today.

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JFK Suspect Fights Extradition

COLUMBUS (Ohio) — (AP) — A formal fugitive charge was filed today against Gordon Novel, wanted by a New Orleans prosecutor investigating conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.

Novel, a 29-year-old former New Orleans night club operator, vowed to fight extradition to Louisiana "if necessary to the United States Su-

preme Court."

A top aide to Gov. James A. Rhodes said, however, that Ohio seldom refuses to return to other states persons arrested in Ohio on other charges.

Novel was picked up Saturday in suburban Gahanna at the request of New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who is conducting the

assassination inquiry.

Gahanna police filed a formal affidavit today naming Novel as a fugitive from justice on the basis of a New Orleans charge of conspiracy to commit burglary.

Novel's Columbus lawyer, Jerry Weiner, contended Novel was not a fugitive because the charge was filed after Novel had left Louisiana.