

EB70

NOVEL 250

NEW ORLEANS (AP)-GORDON NOVEL FILED SUIT WEDNESDAY SEEKING UP TO \$50 MILLION IN DAMAGES FROM DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON AND THE PRIVATE GROUP FINANCING GARRISON'S KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PROBE.

NOVEL, A 29-YEAR-OLD FORMER FRENCH QUARTER LOUNGE OWNER, HAS BEEN TERMED AN IMPORTANT WITNESS IN THE INVESTIGATION BY GARRISON.

THE SUIT, FILED IN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT HERE BY NOVEL'S ATTORNEYS, LISTS AS DEFENDANTS GARRISON AND MEMBERS OF TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES, A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION FORMED TO FINANCE THE PROBE.

THE SUIT ASKS \$10 MILLION IN DAMAGES FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND \$1 MILLION EACH FROM MEMBERS OF THE GROUP. TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES WAS FORMED IN MARCH BY ABOUT 50 BUSINESSMEN WHO AGREED TO EACH PUT UP \$100 A WEEK FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY.

THE SUIT CHARGES GARRISON'S STATEMENTS AND ACCUSATIONS AGAINST NOVEL HAVE RUINED HIS "REPUTATION AS A MAN OF HONESTY, HONOR AND PROBITY."

UNTIL GARRISON'S INVESTIGATION BEGAN, THE SUIT STATED, NOVEL HAD NEVER BEEN "SUSPECTED OF OR CHARGED WITH CRIMES OF BEING A MATERIAL WITNESS; CONSPIRING TO COMMIT SIMPLE BURGLARY, THEFT OF MERCHANDISE OR HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF A CONSPIRACY TO ASSASSINATE THE LATE JOHN F. KENNEDY."

NOVEL IS FREE ON \$10,000 BOND POSTED AT COLUMBUS, OHIO, WHERE HE WAS ARRESTED APRIL 1 ON A WARRANT FROM GARRISON CHARGING HIM WITH CONSPIRING TO BURGLARIZE AN EXPLOSIVES BUNKER AT HOUMA, LA., IN 1961.

THE OTHER CHARGES WERE FILED LATER. NOVEL IS FIGHTING EFFORTS TO RETURN HIM TO LOUISIANA BY EXTRADITION.

THE SUIT ALSO ASKED THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES, ITS CHARTER POSITION AND HOW ITS FUNDS ARE DISTRIBUTED AND USED.

KK841PCD MAY 24

EB105

NEW ORLEANS -- NOVEL, B70 ADD: AND USED.

NOVEL'S COLUMBUS ATTORNEY, JERRY WEINER, ISSUED A STATEMENT AFTER THE FILING OF THE LAWSUIT WAS ANNOUNCED SAYING THAT "MY CLIENT WILL NOW BE ABLE TO REVEAL HIS INNOCENCE OF ANY BURGLARY CHARGE." IT IS ON THE HOUMA BURGLARY CHARGE THAT LOUISIANA IS SEEKING NOVEL'S EXTRADITION FROM OHIO. WEINER IS AIDING NOVEL'S FIGHT AGAINST EXTRADITION.

"MY CLIENT IN 1961," WEINER SAID, "WAS AN OPERATIVE OF THE CIA AS RELATED TO THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION (OF CUBA). THE HOUMA INCIDENT WAS NOT A BURGLARY, IT WAS A GUIDED NECESSARY OPERATION.

"MY CLIENT HAS COLLECTED UNASSAILABLE EVIDENCE THAT MR. GARRISON, HIS STAFF AND SUPPORTERS ARE GUILTY OF MANY CRIMES, RANGING FROM INTIMIDATION ON UP. MR. GARRISON WILL SHORTLY RELEASE A LETTER BY MY CLIENT PROVING THIS INVOLVEMENT IN 1961," HE ADDED.

"THROUGH FEBRUARY 1967," WEINER WENT ON, ". . . MY CLIENT WORKED AS CHIEF OF SECURITY FOR MR. GARRISON'S INQUISITION PROBE. IN ACTUALITY OF PURPOSE, HE WAS WORKING ALSO FOR A NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA WHICH WILL SOON RELEASE A LENGTHY WHITE PAPER DOCUMENTARY. THIS DOCUMENTARY WILL COMPLETELY EXPOSE AND DESTROY MR. GARRISON'S PHONY ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY CASE. IT WILL BE PROVEN THAT IT IS A LEGAL FABRICATION AND A POLITICALLY MOTIVATED FRAUD, BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT."

WEINER DID NOT SAY WHAT NATIONAL NEWS MEDIUM NOVEL WORKED FOR. HE WAS GIVEN A LIE DETECTOR TEST IN MCLEAN, VA., LAST MONTH, REPORTEDLY FINANCED BY THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY (NBC).

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