

SIDESTEPS N.O. RETURN

Kennedy Probe Witness Takes Refuge in Iowa

At least one of three new witnesses subpoenaed by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison in his Kennedy death plot investigation has sidestepped legal attempts to bring him here for testimony.

A former New Orleans disc jockey and entertainer, 27-year-old Thomas Edward Beckham, told newsmen at Omaha, Neb., today he is living in Iowa, the same state in which another wanted witness, Sandra Moffett McMaines, took sanctuary.

Iowa is one of four states which do not honor an interstate witness compact, under which Garrison sought Beckham's return to testify before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

SUBPENAS FOR Beckham, Loran Eugene Hall of Kernville, Calif., and Lawrence J. Howard Jr. of Los Angeles were issued by Garrison's office yesterday.

The DA said all three men

are important material witnesses in his continuing inquiry into the No. 22, 1963, murder of President John F. Kennedy at Dallas.

In his request for Beckham's subpoena, Garrison said Beckham was in Dallas when Kennedy was shot to death.

The DA also contended that Beckman was a close associate of onetime airline pilot David W. Ferrie, who was named as one of the presidential assassination conspirators in the indictment of retired New Orleans business-

man Clay L. Shaw.

Ferrie, who died last February of what the coroner described as natural causes, once claimed to be an ordained priest in a small, off-beat religious order, the Old Orthodox Catholic Church of North America.

GARRISON, in a statement supporting the subpoena, said Beckham was a priest in the same order and "often wore a black suit with his collar reversed when he lived at New Orleans."

Beckham told newsmen at Omaha he was working as a musical entertainer in the area under the stage name Mark Evans.

Garrison listed his address as Omaha, but Beckham said in an interview he was living in a motel at Council Bluffs, Iowa, just across the Missouri River from the Nebraska city.

Mrs. McMaines, an acknowledged onetime girl friend of star prosecution witness Perry Raymond Russo, frustrated earlier efforts by the DA to have her brought here for testimony by moving into the shelter of Iowa.

Russo had testified in a preliminary hearing for Shaw that Mrs. McMaines, then using the name of Sandra Moffett, had accompanied him to a party in Ferrie's apartment in 1963. Later that same night, Russo said, he overheard Ferrie, Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald plotting Kennedy's slaying.

Smith in B.R., Posts Bond in Bribery Case

BATON ROUGE (AP)—In a surprise move last night, Dalton C. Smith, fighting extradition from California on a public bribery indictment here, surrendered himself at the parish jail.

Smith, accompanied by Baton Rouge attorney Ossie B. Brown, posted a \$7,500 bond guaranteeing his appearance in court here Jan. 31, and was released.

The East Baton Rouge Parish grand jury indicted the New Orleans and West Coast contractor on charges of offering a \$25,000 bribe to Aubrey Young, former aide to Gov. John J. McKeithen, to act as a middleman in a reported attempt to free Teamster president James R. Hoffa from jail.

The money was allegedly offered to Young to arrange a meeting with Ed Grady Partin, Baton Rouge Teamsters business agent and key witness in sending Hoffa to prison on a jury tampering charge.

Smith first surrendered and posted bond on the charge in Denton, Tex., and a month later, in November, was arrested by California authorities at his Los Angeles home. Until now he had been fighting extradition from California.