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NEW ORLEANS AP - Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison has subpoenaed three men to testify in his probe into the death of President John F. Kennedy, saying they had been "in unique position to observe activities relevant to the assassination."

The three were identified as Loran E. Hall of Kernville, Calif.; Lawrence J. Howard Jr., 32, of Elmonte, Calif., near Los Angeles; and Thomas Beckham, 27, of Omaha, Neb. They were directed to appear before the Orleans Parish grand jury on Feb. 1 and 2.

Garrison said the three, wanted as material witnesses in his investigation, had not been questioned by the Warren Commission which said Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in shooting the president.

Hall, a bartender, denied he ever knew anyone connected with the assassination and said he would fight the subpoena.

Howard, a welder and fitter, was reported by his wife to be somewhere in Mexico and unavailable for comment.

Beckham, who lists himself as a bishop of the Universal Life Church and entertains with Western music under the name of Mark Adams, said he would not return to New Orleans.

"If I did, I would destroy myself," he said in Omaha. "If Garrison is sincere he can come up here and question me."

Beckham said he worked as an investigator for Garrison for about three months in late 1962.

The subpoenas said Hall and Howard were in Dallas in October 1963, one month before the assassination, and were in contact "with Jack Ruby and other individuals believed to be involved in the assassination and that they were in association with Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas."

Beckham was reported to have been "in active association with certain Cuban exiles in New Orleans in whose company Oswald was seen" and "that he subsequently was reported to be in Dallas in November of 1963 with one of the afore-mentioned Cuban exiles."

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