

EB46 (G)AHL

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA (AP)--THOMAS EDWARD BECKHAM, 27, SOUGHT BY NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTY. JIM GARRISON AS A MATERIAL WITNESS IN HIS PROBE OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION, SAID SUNDAY HE HAD HELPED RAISE FUNDS FOR CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN NEW ORLEANS IN 1962.

BECKHAM SAID HE AIDED SERGIO ARCACHA Y SMITH OF DALLAS, TEX., IN RAISING FUNDS BY OBTAINING COLLECTION CANS AND DESIGNING A LABEL FOR THE CANS.

GARRISON ISSUED A SUBPOENA FOR BECKHAM FRIDAY.

BECKHAM SAID HE IS STAYING WITH FRIENDS HERE AFTER MOVING FROM OMAHA FRIDAY TO AVOID EXTRADITION TO NEW ORLEANS. IOWA IS NOT A MEMBER OF AN INTERSTATE PACT UNDER WHICH PERSONS WANTED FOR INVESTIGATION MAY BE SUBPOENAED.

BECKHAM, WHO LISTS HIMSELF AS A BISHOP OF THE UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH AND ENTERTAINS WITH WESTERN MUSIC UNDER THE NAME OF MARK EVANS, SAID THE FUND-RAISING TOOK PLACE WHILE HE WAS WORKING AS A "PRIEST" OF THE OLD ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA IN OCTOBER, 1962.

HE SAID HE WAS "ORDAINED" IN A BRIEF CEREMONY BY A BISHOP OF THE CHURCH IN NEW ORLEANS ABOUT THREE MONTHS EARLIER, THEN RECEIVED AN ASSIGNMENT IN OCTOBER, 1962.

ARCACHA ALSO HAS BEEN SOUGHT BY GARRISON TO TESTIFY IN THE PROBE. GARRISON HAS SOUGHT TO LINK ARCACHA WITH THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WHICH HE HAS ACCUSED OF TRYING TO BURY HIS INVESTIGATION.

EL1008PCS DEC. 31 NM