

Oswald Marine Pal Agrees to Testify Here

Kerry Thornley, who served with Lee Harvey Oswald in the Marine Corps, has given up his fight in Tampa, Fla., against a subpoena by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and says he will appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Feb. 8 to testify in the Kennedy assassination probe.

The 29-year-old freelance writer said yesterday at an extradition hearing in the Hillsborough County Circuit Court that "if I refuse to go, it might look like I was trying to hide something."

JUDGE ROBERT PATTON told Thornley he would have to obey the Garrison subpoena unless he could show cause why he shouldn't. Thornley, however, made no attempt to present a case.

Thornley has been accused by Garrison of meeting with Oswald, the man the Warren Report said murdered President Kennedy, in New Orleans in 1963, prior to the assassination in Dallas. Thornley has denied the charges.

In September, 1967, Thornley moved from New Orleans to Tampa.

THE WRITER, who has published two books, "Idle Warriors" and "Oswald," said of his decision not to fight extradition: "The holes in my case kept getting wider when I began to realize I would have to take on the whole state of Louisiana." He added that it would be no hardship on him to testify.

Thornley, who said he will be represented in New Orleans by Max P. Gabreski of Oil City, Pa., a relative of his wife, remarked that "if Garrison and I trusted each other, we'd get this cleared up a lot sooner."

THORNLEY SAID that before leaving New Orleans in September he gave Garrison an affidavit concerning his knowledge about Oswald. He said that he told Garrison that Oswald's classified knowledge about U2 airplanes stemmed from his being stationed at the Marine base at El Toro, Calif. Thornley said that everyone at El Toro, which he said was also a U2 base, could observe the planes taking off and landing. Thus, everyone at the base had classified knowledge about the aircraft, he said.

Last year Garrison charged that there were secret files in Washington concerning Oswald's classified knowledge about U2s.

He said he also told the district attorney that Oswald learned Russian independently of the Marine Corps.

Oswald learned to speak Russian from a book and from a fellow Marine who was fluent in the language, Thornley said.



—AP WIREPHOTO.
KERRY THORNLEY and his wife, CARA, leave circuit court in Tampa, Fla., after he was ordered to testify before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in the probe of President Kennedy's assassination by District Attorney Jim Garrison.