

COURT BALKS RETURN OF WITNESS IN 'PLOT'

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LOS ANGELES, Jan. 26—Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer refused today to order the return to Louisiana of Lawrence Howard Jr. one of three Californians sought by the New Orleans District Attorney, Jim Garrison, in his inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Howard, 32 years old, an unemployed welder who lives in suburban Bel Monte, is wanted by a grand jury as a witness regarding an alleged plot to kill the President. He has denied that he knows anything about it.

Judge Schauer's ruling was based on the fact that the Louisiana authorities had failed to present any witnesses to support their subpoena of Mr. Howard.

The Superior Court in Bakersfield last Wednesday similarly rejected a new Orleans request for the return of Loran E. Hall, 38.

The third man sought is Edgar Eugene Bradley of Los Angeles.