

BECKHAM HAS A BODYGUARD

(photocopy attached)

Evangelist Ordered to New Orleans

Thomas Edward Beckham, 27, an entertainer-evangelist, Tuesday lost a fight against returning to New Orleans to testify before a grand jury probing an alleged conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy.

District Court Judge James P. O'Brien granted a request from Louisiana to order Mr. Beckham to appear before the grand jury Thursday.

Tuesday evening, Omaha policeman James Hauger announced he had resigned from the force, effective immediately, to act as Mr. Beckham's bodyguard on the trip to New Orleans.

On Annual Leave

Patrolman Hauger, who was on annual leave from his police job, said he has been acting as Mr. Beckham's bodyguard. Mr. Hauger denied previously he was serving in that capacity.

Mr. Hauger was with Mr. Beckham Saturday night in Sioux City /when a car in which they and /two others/ were riding was involved in an accident.

He said Mr. Beckham's life has been indirectly threatened through phone calls to Mr. Beckham's parents.

Will Be Manager

Following the questioning in New Orleans, Mr. Hauger said he will become Mr. Beckham's /manager/.

Mr. Beckham /of 5314 North Forty-eighth/ Street, was one of three for whom summonses were issued December 29 by Orleans Parish (county) District Attorney Jim Garrison.

California /judges last week/ refused to return the other two, Loran E. Hall, 33, of Kernville and formerly of Omaha, and Lawrence J. Howard, / / of El Monte.

Mr. Beckham /also?/ must return to Omaha to face contempt of court proceedings March 12, because he did not appear for the hearing on the Louisiana summons, as ordered at 9 a.m. Tuesday morning.

During the hearing, Mr. Beckham denied knowledge of any conspiracy and said he "was home watching television in my mother's trailer" at the time of the assassination.

He also expressed fear for his safety during the trip to New Orleans.

"Mr. Garrison wants to set me up," he said.

Will Ask Assurance

Mr. Sloma /?/ said later that he planned to call Mr. Garrison for assurance that Mr. Beckham will be protected. The request from Louisiana said that Mr. Beckham would be protected on the trip to and from New Orleans from arrest for anything that occurred prior to the hearing in Douglas County District Court.

"I am concerned, perhaps as a private citizen, about the numerous deaths from unnatural causes of people connected in one way or another with the Garrison investigation," said Mr. Sloma.

Mr. Beckham said he thought the order to return to New Orleans was unconstitutional.

Evangelist Has Injured Elbow

(photocopy attached)

JFK PROBE FIGURE'S HEARING LATER

A District Court hearing for Thomas Edward Beckham was put off indefinitely Monday morning.

Mr. Beckham was to have appeared to show cause why he should not return to New Orleans to testify in the President Kennedy assassination probe being conducted by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison.

Mr. Beckham, a / / evangelist, who says he is a bishop in the Universal Life Church, was in Immanuel Hospital Monday suffering from a fractured elbow, County Attorney Donald L. /Knowles/ said the hearing will be reset later.

Mr. Beckham was injured in an auto accident at 7:20 p.m. Saturday in Sioux City, Ia.

Sioux City police said Mr. Beckham was a passenger in a car which missed a driveway to a tavern parking lot and struck the tavern.

Police said the car was driven by James Ueding /74--/ Schuyler Drive, Omaha. Another passenger, Cecil Stapleton, 4528 Laurel Avenue, Omaha, was treated for a chest injury at a Sioux City hospital and released.

Patrolman Robert Bean said the Ueding car was involved in a minor two-car collision at an intersection before the accident at the tavern.

Sioux City police said Mr. Beckham gave the name of Dr. T. Edward Beckham and the address of 5314 North Forty-eighth Street, Omaha.

The World-Herald learned that Mr. Beckham walked into the hospital at 12:10 a.m. Sunday. Hospital officials confirmed he was admitted, but a supervisor said she had been told to release no other information. Although Mr. Beckham's room has a telephone, calls to it were not answered.

Beckham Has A Bodyguard

Evangelist Ordered To New Orleans

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August 27, 1968, Monday

Evangelist Has Injured Elbow— FBI Probe Figure's Hearing Late

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