

NEW ORLEA.

Murder Try Charge Against Martens Voided

The District Attorney's office has refused to accept a charge of attempted murder against ~~Layton P. Martens~~, a 25-year-old man who has figured in DA Jim Garrison's assassination probe.

Martens was accused of stabbing Darryl Gertenschloger, 29, 728 Dumaine, Apt. 401, June 27, during an altercation in Martens' apartment at 1205 Bourbon.

ASSISTANT DA James Alcock said today the charge was refused because in his opinion Martens acted in self-defense.

Martens was released on a \$750 bond the day after the stabbing.

Witnesses told police that Martens stabbed Gertenschloger after Gertenschloger abused a 21-year-old woman, Laurel Ecke, 728 Dumaine, Apt. 401, and struck Martens at least twice.

Police said that Martens armed himself with a knife and when Gertenschloger attacked, Martens stabbed him.

MARTENS FIGURED in the DA's investigation into the slaying of President John F. Kennedy when it came to light that Martens was at one time a roommate of the late David W. Ferrie, who died shortly after the Garrison probe was revealed.

Ferrie was accused by Garrison of being a conspirator in the President's death.

Martens was indicted on April 5, 1967, by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury for perjury in connection with testimony he gave about two other principals in the Garrison investigation—Gordon Novel and Sergio Arcacha Smith.

Martens has not been brought to trial on the perjury charge.