

Perjury Counts Against Probe Figure Dropped

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Charges of perjury against Layton P. Martens, a key figure in the Kennedy assassination probe of District Attorney Jim Garrison, have been dropped by the DA's office.

Martens, 27, was a roommate of the late David W. Ferrie, another important figure in the probe, when Presi-

dent John F. Kennedy was murdered in 1963.

A student at the University of Southwestern Louisiana at the time of the investigation, Martens was indicted in connection with his testimony concerning the burglary of a Houma munitions dump in 1961.

Gordon Novel and anti-Castro leader Sergio Vincente Archacha Smith were charged with the burglary and Ferrie was named as a conspirator in the theft. Martens testified he had never met Novel and did not know whether Smith accompanied Ferrie and himself on a trip to Houma,

where the burglary of the Schlumberger Wells Service munitions dump allegedly occurred.

A grand jury indicted Martens for perjury in 1967 in connection with that testimony but the case had never been brought to trial.