

Evangelist's Link to Fund Is Confirmed

Worked With Cuban, Beckham Reports

By David Thompson

Thomas Edward Beckham, an evangelist-entertainer sought to testify in the New Orleans probe of the assassination of President Kennedy, and Sunday he helped raise funds for Cuban revolutionary forces in New Orleans in 1962. Mr. Beckham, 27, said he is staying with friends in Council Bluffs after checking out of a motel there Saturday. He said he moved to Iowa in an effort to avoid extradition to New Orleans to testify in the assassination probe being conducted by Orleans Parish (Orleans County) District Attorney Garrison.

Mr. Beckham, who says he is a bishop of the Universal Life Church, had lived in Omaha from April until Friday night. He also travels as a country-western singer, using the stage name of Mark Evans.

Designed Label

Interviewed in the Bluffs Sunday afternoon, Mr. Beckham said he aided Sergio Arcacha y Smith of Dallas in raising funds by obtaining collection cans and designing a label for the cans.

In a previous interview Mr. Beckham denied knowing Mr. Arcacha.

Mr. Arcacha also has been sought by Mr. Garrison to testify in the probe. Mr. Garrison has sought to link Mr. Arcacha with the Central Intelligence Agency. He has accused the CIA of trying to pry his investigation.

The fund-raising took place while Mr. Beckham was working as a "priest" of the Old Catholic Church of North America in October, 1962, he said.

Evangelist Designed Can For Cuban's Fund-Raising

Assigned to Church

He said he was "ordained" in a brief ceremony by a shop of the church in New Orleans about three months earlier, then received an assignment in October, 1962. In the meantime, he said, he worked a church in an old store building slated to be torn down.

WORLD-Herald, January 1, 1968

Before taking up church work, Mr. Beckham said, he worked on a piecemeal basis for W. Guy Banister, who operated a private detective agency. Most of his work in-

Turn to Page 2, Column 1

Continued from Page 1.

involved following people involved in domestic relations cases, he said.

Mr. Beckham said the detective agency was in or near 531 Lafayette Street.

Mr. Garrison said that Mr. Beckham "associated with David Ferrie and others at 531 Lafayette Street, which was the same office building described as 544 Camp Street, the address originally used on leaflets handed out by Lee Oswald in New Orleans." Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President Kennedy.

But Sunday Mr. Beckham repeated his denial that he ever knew Oswald. He also denied that he had ever met with Mr. Ferrie more than once, and said that meeting was only for 10 minutes.

Mr. Beckham also repeated his contention that Mr. Garrison should subpoena Jack S. Martin, Sr., a private investigator in New Orleans, because he knew many of the people sought to testify in the Garrison investigation. He said it was through Mr. Martin that he met Mr. Ferrie.