

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: November 7, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Conrad

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963  
DALLAS, TEXAS  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION  
CONCERNING

Mr. Tolson  
 Mr. DeLoach  
 Mr. Mohr  
 Mr. Bishop  
 Mr. Casper  
 Mr. Callahan  
 Mr. Conrad  
 Mr. Felt  
 Mr. Gale  
 Mr. Rosen  
 Mr. Sullivan  
 Mr. Tavel  
 Mr. Trotter  
 Tele. Room  
 Holmes  
 Gandy

### PURPOSE:

The Department, by letter dated 11/3/66, authorized transfer of assassination rifle and revolver used by Oswald to kill Police Officer J. D. Tippit to National Archives. These items were in possession of our Dallas Office pending disposition of court action as to ownership of these items.

### BACKGROUND:

By memorandum dated 8/19/66, the Attorney General authorized the Bureau to transfer to National Archives all exhibits and evidence in the Bureau's possession relating to the assassination of President Kennedy, with the exception of the rifle and revolver. This has been done.

By letter dated 11/3/66, the Department authorized the Bureau to transfer to National Archives the assassination rifle and revolver (no mention made of the holster) used by Oswald to kill Dallas Police Officer J. D. Tippit. These items were previously shipped to the Dallas Office upon instructions of the Department in connection with a suit instituted by John J. King, a Colorado oilman. King paid Oswald's widow, Mrs. Marina Oswald Porter, \$10,000 for these items and agreed to pay an additional \$35,000 when he obtained possession.

Hearing held U. S. Federal Court, Dallas, Texas, and Judge Estes decided the guns were rightfully the property of U. S. Government. King appealed this decision to the 5th Circuit Court and, according to the Department's letter 11/3/66, the adverse decision of the 5th Circuit was not

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ENCLOSURE

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Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

going to be appealed and since time for such an appeal has expired, the Department states this, in effect, terminated the litigation. The Department indicates that the title to these items was vested in the United States pursuant to Public Law 89-318. The Federal Register for 11/1/66, specifically lists the rifle and pistol as coming within Public Law 89-318. No reference is made to the holster; however, the Acting Attorney General's order specifies that all other items of evidence which were assigned exhibit numbers by the Commission would be included. The holster was given Commission Exhibit Number C-144.

Upon Bureau instructions, the Dallas Office shipped the rifle, pistol and holster to the Bureau and these items were received on 11/5/66, and are presently in the possession of our Laboratory. It is noted that in the Department's letter of 11/3/66, it neglected to mention the holster; however, this item is being transferred to the National Archives along with the assassination rifle and revolver.

ACTION:

A memorandum transferring these items to Archives is being prepared by the Laboratory, and, thereafter, the Department will be advised of the action taken.

*Handwritten notes:*  
✓  
J. Edgar Hoover  
12/12  
J. Edgar Hoover  
all 3 items etc in this are transferred to Archives & Lab files.