

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## JFK Commission Seeks Depository

By MARVIN SCHWARTZ

The John F. Kennedy Memorial Commission voted to petition the Texas Legislature to grant the commission the power of eminent domain and the necessary funds to purchase the Texas School Book Depository Building.

The commission acted upon a resolution from State Sen. Mike McKool, who appeared before the group asking that the action be taken "before the property can be turned into a commercial museum for profit."

Nashville businessman Aubrey Mayhew bought the building in auction in 1970 for \$650,000. He has announced plans to turn the building into a John F. Kennedy Museum. He has also stated that he will shortly open up the sixth floor of the depository building for viewing by the public on an admission basis.

Both the commission and McKool state they have not been in contact with Mayhew concerning the matter and do not know whether he will be willing to sell the building to the Commission.

"If not," said McKool, "what this power of eminent domain will give the commission is the power of condemnation. But this does not mean it will be taking anything away from anybody, but that it will only have to pay the fair market price for it. Without this, if the commission just negotiated on its own, the price could get out of reason."

The sixth floor of the building is the spot where accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly fired the shots that killed John F. Kennedy.

McKool noted in his resolution that the building would be the logical choice for a museum to memorialize Kennedy but that such a museum of great historical value should belong to the people of Texas and more respect, dignity and good taste can be shown through state ownership and operation.

Commission chairman Raymond Nasher noted that the petition to the Legislature should clearly state that the purchase should not cost the taxpayers of Texas any money in that a reasonable charge can be made to those using the facility (in the

same manner as the Dallas-Fort Worth Toll Road) until the state has been reimbursed of all its initial investment.

McKool told the commission he felt between one and two million dollars would be the cost involved in purchasing the building and establishing the museum.

The commission agreed that the first step would be to purchase the building and the decision on what to put in it should come after that.

The commission also offered a second petition passed on to the legislature asking that the commission also be given the power to establish other forms of "living" memorials to Kennedy.

Nasher noted that such things that have been considered are a JFK graduate school within an existing school in the area; a program of vocational training, scholarships promoting excellence in education, internships in the study of government in the State of Texas and a youth crime prevention program, all to be established in the memory of JFK.

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