

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Court Gives \$17,729 To Oswald's Widow

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — A federal appeals court awarded \$17,729 Monday to the widow of Lee Harvey Oswald for property seized during the FBI's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a Texas federal district court finding that Marina Oswald Porter was entitled to only \$3,000 — the stipulated market value of property similar to that seized.

The items taken by the government for use in the compilation of the Warren Commission Report consisted mainly of Oswald's personal effects such as letters, a diary, family photographs, a marriage license and other personal effects.

The appeals court said it agreed with Mrs. Porter's claim that the items taken by the government had souvenir

or collector's value and that in order to properly compensate for her loss, she should receive the fair market value of such collector's items.

"We note that were it not for the government's exercise of its power of eminent domain here," said the court, "Oswald's widow would have been able to realize through sales to the public, the collector's value of the items in question."

The circuit said it was also significant that "there was a viable market, albeit a collector's market, for the items for which Mrs. Porter seeks compensation."

The government argued that the enhanced value of the property attributable to its association with the assassination of the President should not, in fairness, be awarded to the "wrongdoer's survivor."

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