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*Assassination of
Mr. John F. Kennedy*

*Walt
S.D.*

UPI-141

(RIFLE)

WASHINGTON--THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS EXPECTED TO SEEK LEGISLATION GIVING THE UNITED STATES OWNERSHIP OF THE RIFLE THAT KILLED PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

IT IS LEARNED TODAY THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING A BILL WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CLAIM, ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES, THE RIFLE AND OTHER ARTICLES ACCEPTED AS EVIDENCE BY THE WARREN COMMISSION.

THE ARTICLES ARE NOW HELD BY THE FBI BUT THEIR LEGAL OWNERSHIP REMAINS UNCHANGED AND APPARENTLY LEE OSWALD'S WIDOW IS LEGAL OWNER OF BOTH THE RIFLE AND THE PISTOL USED TO KILL POLICEMAN J. D. TIPPIT. MRS. OSWALD SAID RECENTLY SHE WAS OFFERED \$10,000 FOR THE TWO WEAPONS.

TO SHUT OFF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY LOOSE POSSESSION OF THE ARTICLES, THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD ALLOW THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO PICK ANY ITEM FROM THE EXHIBIT AND TURN THEM OVER TO NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR PUTTING THE ITEM ON PUBLIC DISPLAY THOUGH THE LEGISLATION WOULD NOT FORBID IT.

THE PROPOSAL, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SOURCES SAY, WOULD HELP TO REDUCE UNFOUNDED RUMORS ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION DURING THE YEARS AHEAD.

THEY SAY IT WOULD ALSO PERMIT A COMPLETE FEDERAL REASSESSMENT OF THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT, IF WARRANTED AT SOME FUTURE DATE.

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S. Belmont*

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE