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Handwritten notes and signatures:
F. B. I.
J. Edgar Hoover
W. F. Sullivan
R. F. Kennedy
S. J. Belmont
J. P. Mohr
J. A. Casper
J. M. Callahan
J. E. Conrad
J. H. Felt
J. G. Gale
J. R. Rosen
J. T. Sullivan
J. W. Tavel
J. Trotter
J. Tele Room
J. Holmes
J. Gandy

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

UPI-186

(WARREN COMMISSION)

WASHINGTON--THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PROPOSED TODAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSUME OWNERSHIP OF THE RIFLE WHICH KILLED PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

THE DEPARTMENT SUBMITTED A BILL TO CONGRESS WHICH WOULD EMPOWER THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THE RIFLE, THE REVOLVER WHICH KILLED POLICEMAN J. D. TIPPIT, AND OTHER ITEMS COLLECTED AS EVIDENCE BY THE WARREN COMMISSION.

ATTY. GEN. KATZENBACH TOLD CONGRESS IN AN ACCOMPANYING LETTER THAT PASSAGE OF THE BILL WOULD PREVENT "DISPERSAL AND EXPLOITATION" OF THE OBJECTS.

KATZENBACH SAID FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO RETAIN THE EXHIBITS "AND THE RESULTANT POSSIBILITY OF THEIR LOSS, DESTRUCTION OR ALTERATION WILL SERVE TO ENCOURAGE IRRESPONSIBLE RUMORS AND ALLEGATIONS DESIGNED TO DESTROY THE WIDESPREAD PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE WORK AND CONCLUSIONS" OF THE WARREN COMMISSION.

THE DOZENS OF ITEMS--INCLUDING PERSONAL PAPERS CARRIED BY LEE OSWALD WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED AND WOODEN CRATES ON WHICH THE ASSASSIN SAT IN THE TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY--ARE HELD BY THE FBI BUT STILL LEGALLY BELONG TO OTHERS. OSWALD'S WIDOW SAID SHE HAD BEEN OFFERED \$20,000 FOR THE MAIL ORDER RIFLE USED IN THE ASSASSINATION.

UNDER THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S PLANS, THE ITEMS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD AUTHORIZE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO DETERMINE WHICH ITEMS THE GOVERNMENT ACQUIRES. PREVIOUS OWNERS COULD SUE THE GOVERNMENT FOR COMPENSATION IN THE U.S. COURT OF CLAIMS.

REPORTS, TRANSCRIPTS, AND OTHER WORKING PAPERS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION HAVE ALREADY BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

THE BILL DECLARES THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE "NATIONAL INTEREST" THAT THE ITEMS OF EVIDENCE ALSO BE RETAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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