0-19 (Rev. 12-14-64)

assassination of President

Oswald's Rifle

WE are surprised it is necessary, but the House has passed a bill to confiscate the rifle used to assassinate President Kennedy, and such other items of evidence in the case as the Attorney General may select.

The chief sponsor of the bill, Rep. Byron G. Rogers (D., Colo.) said the FBI now has the rifle, but eventually it would be preserved by the Government in a manner yet to be determined.

This bill also provides for "just" compensation to the owners of the weapons acquired by the Government. It turns out a Denver man claims to have given the widow of Lee Oswald a \$10,000 down payment toward purchase of the rifle and a pistol which killed a Dallas policeman.

The U. S. Treasury already is in court seeking to confiscate these weapons because they never were registered as required by law. If this action is successful, that should settle the whole grisly business. Whether the Denver man ever recovers his 10 grand, or any part of it, is a matter between him and Oswald's widow.

It seems strange to us the Government should be put to all this rigmarole to acquire weapons used in such an incredible crime. But if this is the case, we hope the Senate promptly passes this bill and the Government grabs every item of evidence it can find and stows it in a safe place — and never mind whether anybody gets paid for something he never owned.

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The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
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