

AUTOPSY PHOTOS PUT IN ARCHIVES BY THE KENNEDYS

Access to Negatives, Slides
and X-Rays of President's
Body Will Be Restricted

OPEN TO LAW AGENCIES

Justice Department Asked
Filing of Data—Doubts on
Warren Study a Reason

By FRED P. GRAHAM
Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, Nov. 1—The
Justice Department disclosed
tonight that photographs and
X-rays taken of President Ken-
nedy's body at the autopsy after
his assassination were turned
over to the National Archives
yesterday by the Kennedy
family.

The 65 X-rays, color slides
and black and white negatives
will be available to Federal law-
enforcement officials. However,
for the next five years access
by scholars and other unofficial
investigators will be granted
only with the consent of the
Kennedy family.

The material had been with-
held by the family for reasons
of taste. As had been previous-
ly reported, it was not seen
by the full Warren Commis-
sion, although Chief Justice
Earl Warren, who headed the
commission, had viewed it.

The limitations on access to
the material were included in a
letter to the Archives signed by
a lawyer for the executors of
the Kennedy estate—Mrs. Ken-
nedy and the President's broth-
ers, Senators Robert F. Kennedy
of New York and Edward M.
Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Law Provides for Curbs

A Federal law regarding
Presidential libraries, provides
that papers and other items
may be deposited in the
Archives subject to limitations
and restrictions imposed by the
donors.

This morning, Acting Attor-
ney General Ramsey Clark of-
ficially turned over to the
Archives all of the physical evi-
dence considered by the War-
ren Commission.

This had been in the hands of
the Justice Department.

The X-rays and photographs
were placed in the National Ar-
chives at the request of the
Justice Department.

A Justice Department spokes-
man, who asked not to be iden-
tified, said tonight that the
action was prompted in part by
a number of recent books that
expressed doubt about The
Warren Commission's conclu-
sions concerning the assassina-
tion.

Details on Restrictions

According to the spokesman,
the items will be restricted as
follows:

¶ Access will be immediately
granted to law-enforcement of-
ficials of all Federal investiga-
tive agencies.

¶ No public display or release
will be permitted.

¶ For the next five years ac-
cess by scholars and other un-
official investigators will be
granted only with the specific
consent of the Kennedy family.
After five years, the family will
permit qualified pathologists
and other medical experts to
study the items.

These limitations will remain
in effect throughout the life-
times of Mrs. Kennedy, the late
President's parents, Mr. and
Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, and
the President's brothers and
sisters and his two children.

Arlen Specter, who was a key
Warren Commission lawyer and
is now District Attorney of
Philadelphia, has reported that
the commission, in investigat-
ing the circumstances of the
assassination, decided it was
unnecessary for its members to
review the photographs or X-
rays.

Mr. Specter had interviewed
Commander J. Humes, the

autopsy surgeon, and had asked
if X-rays would assist him in
further specifying the nature of
President Kennedy's wounds.
The published testimony, in
Volume II, Page 371, shows the
Navy surgeon replied:

"I do not believe, sir, that
the availability of the pictures
would materially assist the
commission."

Questioned by Warren

Asked by Mr. Specter about
the other photographs, Com-
mander Humes said these would
show more accurately and in
detail the character of the
wounds, giving perhaps a more
graphic picture.

Chief Justice Warren, who
was presiding, then asked:
"If we had the pictures here
and you could look them over
again . . . would it cause you
to change any of the testimony
you have given here?"

Commander Humes replied:
"To the best of my recollec-
tion, Mr. Chief Justice, it would
not."

The commission concluded
that President Kennedy and
Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of
Texas had been struck by the
same bullet, which passed first
through the President.

Some critics contended the
bullet had not passed through
the President's body and sug-
gested that the pictures and
X-Rays taken at the autopsy
were being suppressed to con-
ceal the truth. These critics im-
plied that another bullet, per-
haps fired by another assassin,
had struck Governor Connally.

It has been widely reported
that the Secret Service deliv-
ered all the undeveloped pic-
tures and X-rays to the Ken-
nedy family.

Today, Commander Humes
and another of the three
physicians who performed the
autopsy, J. Thornton Boswell,
went to the National Archives
and authenticated the X-Rays
and pictures as those taken
during the autopsy. Both
physicians are now stationed at
the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

The third physician, Col.
Pierre A. Finck, is on duty in
Vietnam.

The radiologist who took the
X-Rays, whose name was not
given tonight, also authenticat-
ed the X-Rays.

Doctors' Testimony

According to the Justice De-
partment spokesman, the two
Navy doctors who authenticated
the material today both said
they saw nothing new in the
X-Rays and pictures.

In their testimony before the
Warren Commission, both said
their examination of the Presi-
dent's body indicated that the
bullet that struck him in the
back of the neck passed out
his throat.

This testimony was crucial to
the commission's conclusion that
a single bullet had struck the
President and Governor Con-
nally.

Asked if everything they saw
today was corroborative, the
doctors were said to have re-
plied, "Yes."

The spokesman emphasized
they were merely trying to au-
thenticate the material and did
not study it from a medical
standpoint.

14 X-Rays in Group

The Justice Department said
there were 14 X-rays, 25 black
and white negatives and 28
four-by-five-inch color trans-
parencies. The spokesman gave
as one reason for the depart-
ment's request for the data the
desire to complete the historical
record of the assassination.

He added that he was "sure
that the questions which some
of these books helped to raise
in the eye of the public" helped
lead to the Justice Depart-
ment's action.

Questions about the pictures
have been raised in recent
books that dispute the Warren
Commission's conclusions. The
most widely publicized of these,
"Inquest: The Warren Commis-
sion and the Establishment of
Truth," by Edward Jay Epstein,
quoted from Federal Bureau of
Investigation reports saying the
bullet that struck the President
in the back of the head did not
go through.

Later, F.B.I. sources said
these reports were in error.
But Mr. Epstein and other
critics continued to demand the
pictures and X-rays as proof.

Another book, "Rush to
Judgment," by Mark Lane,
stressed the same theme.

Government Takes Evidence

In an earlier action today,
acting Attorney General
Ramsey Clark took title for the
Federal Government to all the
physical evidence considered by
the Warren Commission.

New York Daily News
New York Herald Tribune
New York Post
The New York Times

Acting under a law of 1965
that authorized him to decide
which articles should be pre-
served in the National Archives,
Mr. Clark concluded that "the
national interest requires the
entire body of evidence consid-
ered by the commission" to be
preserved intact.

In a poignant recount of the
memorabilia of the assassina-
tion, he listed first "one 6.5 mm.
Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, with
telescopic sight, serial No.
C2766, including sling and car-
tridge clip."

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Mr. Specter had interviewed
Commander J. Humes, the

Handwritten signature and initials