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*Assassination of President
 John F. Kennedy*

UPI-191

(KENNEDY BOOK)

WASHINGTON--A NEW BOOK ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY EXPRESSES FEAR THAT PUBLIC SENTIMENT WHIPPED BY CRITICS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION MIGHT LEAD TO DEMANDS FOR DISINTERMENT OF THE SLAIN PRESIDENT'S BODY.

THE BOOK, "THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION," WAS WRITTEN BY CHARLES ROBERTS, WHITE HOUSE REPORTER FOR NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE, AND PUBLISHED TODAY BY GROSSET AND DUNLAP AS "THE ANSWER TO THE WARREN REPORT CRITICS."

ROBERTS WAS ONE OF TWO REPORTERS ABOARD THE PRESIDENTIAL PLANE, AIR FORCE ONE, WHICH BROUGHT KENNEDY'S BODY AND THE NEWLY SWORN PRESIDENT JOHNSON BACK TO WASHINGTON FROM DALLAS A FEW HOURS AFTER THE NOV. 22, 1963 ASSASSINATION. THE OTHER REPORTER ABOARD THE PLANE WAS MERRIMAN SMITH, UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL WHITE HOUSE REPORTER.

IN A PREFACE TO HIS BOOK, ROBERTS NOTED THAT IN 1887 AND AGAIN IN 1901, ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS DISINTERRED BECAUSE OF RUMORS SWEEPING THE COUNTRY THAT HIS COFFIN WAS EMPTY. THE SECOND EXHUMATION OF LINCOLN CAME SHORTLY BEFORE HE WAS PERMANENTLY ENSHRINED IN A CRYPT AT SPRINGFIELD, ILL. IN EACH CASE THE COFFIN WAS OPEN AND THE CORPSE INSPECTED FOR IDENTIFICATION.

ROBERTS SAID THE QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT THE WARREN COMMISSION'S FINDINGS IN THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION COULD LEAD TO RECURRENCE OF THE GRIM SITUATION INVOLVING LINCOLN'S BODY. A HARRIS PUBLIC OPINION POLL MONDAY SAID MOST AMERICANS DOUBT ALL THE FACTS HAVE BEEN TOLD ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION.

"PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S BODY HAS NOT YET BEEN ENSHRINED," ROBERTS WROTE. "BEFORE IT IS, CHANCES ARE THERE WILL BE A DEMAND THAT HE BE DISINTERRED FOR INSPECTION. AFTER THAT, ACCORDING TO PRESENT INDICATIONS, SOME CITIZEN WILL INSIST THAT THE INSPECTION WAS FRAUDULENT, PERHAPS BECAUSE HE WASN'T THERE."

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