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UPI-167

(AUTOPSY)

WASHINGTON--THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DECIDED TODAY TO APPEAL A COURT ORDER RATHER THAN LET A CLAY SHAW TRIAL WITNESS SEE THE X-RAYS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 1963 AUTOPSY ON ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

JOSEPH HANNON, AN ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY, TOLD JUDGE CHARLES HALLECK OF THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS HE WOULD APPEAL TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS.

HALLECK HAD RULED LAST WEEK THE GOVERNMENT MUST GET PERMISSION OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY FOR DR. CYRIL WECHT, A PITTSBURGH PATHOLOGIST, TO LOOK AT THE X-RAYS AND PHOTOS. THE AUTOPSY MATERILAS AND SEVERAL OTHER ITEMS PERTAINING TO KENNEDY'S DEATH WERE GIVEN BY HIS FAMILY TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES WITH THE PROVISION THEY NOT BE ALLOWED ON PUBLIC VIEW UNTIL 1971.

HANNON HAD SAID THERE WAS NO WAY TO CHANGE THAT AGREEMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT EVEN ABOUT TO ASK THE KENNEDY FAMILY TO CHANGE IT. TODAY, WHEN THE 4 P.M. DEADLINE ARRIVED FOR WECHT TO BE ALLOWED INTO THE ARCHIVES, HANNON GAVE NOTICE HE WOULD APPEAL HALLECK'S ORDER.

2/17--GE717P

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