

U.S. Could Not Bar Oswald, Congress Told

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WASHINGTON (UPI) — The State Department had no authority to prevent Lee Harvey Oswald from leaving Russia and returning to the United States, congressional testimony revealed Sunday.

Oswald, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, went to Russia in 1959, turned in his passport to the U.S. Embassy in 1961, but was granted permission to return in 1962.

Undersecretary of State William J. Crockett said the department could only decide the legal question of whether Oswald was still an American citizen. It decided he was.

Crockett, according to the transcript of a House ap-

propriations subcommittee hearing, was asked about FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover's claim that a State Department document labeled Oswald as a "thoroughly safe risk." The department has denied the claim.

"I would like it specifically understood that the State Department does not have the authority to investigate any American citizen for entry into the United States on security, emotional health or anything else," Crockett told the subcommittee.

Abba B. Schwartz, administrator of the department's Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, said a State Department study group was studying the entire Oswald case to see if legislation should be recommended to Congress. *Car*