

# HOUSE APPROVES DEATH PENALTIES IN ASSASSINATION

NYT-6/22/65  
Bill Makes It Federal Crime  
to Slay a President or  
Anyone in Line for Post

## LONE DISSENT IS HEARD

Californian Says That He Is  
Opposed to Taking Life—  
Measure Goes to Senate

By MARJORIE HUNTER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 21—

With a lone voice raised in protest, the House voted today to make the assassination of a President or Vice President a Federal crime punishable by death.

The bill, which now goes to the Senate, grew out of the assassination of President Kennedy in November, 1963.

The sole dissenting speech came from Representative Philip Burton, Democrat of California. He said that he "regretfully" opposed the legislation because it provided the death penalty.

But others, from both sides of the aisles, rose to endorse the bill, one of the key recommendations of the Warren Commission, which investigated the death of Mr. Kennedy.

"It's always been open season on the President of the United States," Representative Frank Chelf, Democrat of Kentucky, commented.

### Penalties Are Listed

Four Presidents — Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley and John F. Kennedy — have been assassinated in the last century.

Congress first considered

making Presidential assassination a Federal crime in 1902, but failed to act. Subsequent attempts also failed.

The bill would make it a Federal crime to kill, kidnap or assault a President, Vice President, President-elect, Vice President-elect or, if there is no Vice President, the person next in order of succession.

It would provide the death penalty for first-degree murder in the absence of a qualified verdict, a life term or imprisonment for any term of years for second-degree murder, up to 10 years in prison for voluntary manslaughter, and up to three years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both, for involuntary manslaughter.

Kidnapping would carry a penalty of up to life imprisonment. Assault would be punishable by up to 10 years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both.

Representative Byron Rogers, Democrat of Colorado, said it was ironic that Federal law already covered attacks on Secret Service agents hired to protect the President, but not the President himself.

Federal law carries a death penalty for the murder of Federal judges, United States Attorneys, marshals, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Secret Service agents, postal inspectors, game wardens, employes of penal and correctional institutions, customs and immigration officers and numerous other Federal employes.

END