

# Judge Orders Kennedy Autopsy Report Opened

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Pathologist Given Court Permission to Examine Material Sealed in Archives

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A Washington judge ruled Friday that a potential witness in the New Orleans conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw may examine the autopsy photographs and X rays of John F. Kennedy now sealed in the National Archives.

Judge Charles Halleck of the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions ordered that a Pittsburgh pathologist, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, be allowed to see the autopsy material before 4 p.m. Monday.

The judge also directed the U.S. archivist, Dr. James Rhoads, to take the rifle allegedly used by assassin Lee Harvey Oswald to the New Orleans trial along with a bullet and bullet fragments that struck Mr. Kennedy.

Wecht, who has published reports critical of the Warren Commission's investigation of the Kennedy assassination, was the key witness Friday in asserting New Orleans Dist. Att. Jim Garrison's claim that the autopsy material is relevant to the conspiracy charge.

## Expected to Testify

Wecht is expected to be called by Garrison as an expert medical witness in the Shaw trial to testify on the autopsy material and the assassination.

Halleck said that Garrison's assistant, Numa Bertel, had proved to him that the X rays and photographs are "necessary and material" to the Shaw trial. Halleck directed Garrison's office to ensure

that the items that go to New Orleans are protected and left in the constant custody of the archivist.

Halleck's ruling was a compromise between the requests of Garrison and the Justice Department. Garrison had asked that the 79 autopsy photographs and X rays as well as several articles from the assassination be sent to New Orleans.

## Sealed Until 1971

The U.S. attorney's office argued that the release of the material, sealed in the archives until 1971 at the request of the Kennedy family, might lead to "undesirable, sensational or undignified" consequences.

Garrison contends the material will prove his case against Shaw, a New Orleans businessman he has accused of conspiracy in the Kennedy assassination.

The government says Garrison does not need the evidence from Dallas to prove the conspiracy charge, and that there is no burden on the district attorney to prove that "one man or 20 shot at the President."

## Other Material

Halleck also ordered Rhoads to take X rays of former Texas Gov. John Connally to the Shaw trial and told the government to furnish certified copies of the Kennedy autopsy report, of doctor's statements at the time of Mr. Kennedy's death and photos of Mr. Kennedy's shirt, coat and tie. Connally was wounded during the Kennedy assassination.